

APPLIED RESEARCH IN INTERIOR DESIGN

American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) Foundation: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)



The ASID Foundation is pleased to announce the Transform Research Grants, which are intended to provide essential funding to:

- Address critical gaps in industry knowledge
- Advance design understanding
- Transform the practice of interior design to improve the human experience

The ASID Foundation exists to advance the profession and communicate the ability of interior design to enhance the human experience through empirical research, scholarships, and education.

To expand knowledge about how interior design impacts the world around us, the ASID Foundation is seeking research projects that generate outcomes with practical applications for design practitioners and their clients. Proposed research should be directly relevant, easily translatable, and of keen interest to both practicing designers and their clients. Completed research projects are to be developed into an educational resource that will be shared with the design community and others, as applicable. The Foundation is not seeking proposals for theoretical research, historical research, or literature reviews.

The Transform Interior Design Research Grant program is made possible by the generous support of the [Donghia Foundation](#).

DESCRIPTION OF THE AWARDS

Up to \$100,000 may be awarded annually between two types of research studies:

GRANT A: Seed/Start-Up Funds

Up to \$30,000 to support the exploration or pilot phase of broader research initiatives; to be completed in nine months or less (not including dissemination).

GRANT B: Research Project

Up to \$70,000 to investigate how design can transform lives; to be completed in 15 months or less (not including dissemination).

TOPICS OF INTEREST

The ASID Foundation Research Committee has prioritized three (3) topics of interest (see below). These topics align with the objectives of the ASID Foundation, engage ASID members and the profession, and offer an opportunity for continued research on topics previously funded, yielding greater breadth, depth and longevity of the work.

1. ADAPTIVE ENVIRONMENTS DESIGNED FOR CHANGE & RESILIENCY

We constantly make adjustments as we deal with erratic changes in our day-to-day lives. We saw these adjustments become increasingly critical as COVID-19 required rapid shifts personally and organizationally at both residential and commercial scales. *Given that we rely on the built environment to support our activities and behaviors, and at times, require spaces to quickly transform according to these varying demands, how can we design physical environments that are adaptive, flexible and supportive of human resilience, as needed to meet the changing demands of the day? What design attributes and/or strategies are conducive to human resilience?*

2. DESIGNING HUMANIZING ENVIRONMENTS FOR IMPERILED PEOPLE

‘Imperiled people’ includes those fleeing not only natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, wildfires, and drought, but also economic and political upheaval. Well-designed spaces, temporarily occupied by this population in the midst of natural, financial, or political crises, can support this population and ensure greater resiliency during times of tension, disruption, disorder and confusion. *Given that design should be used to positively impact lives, how can design create more humane spaces for populations of imperiled peoples? What attributes of environments can propel more humane alternatives?*

2. ACTIVATING DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION IN DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Interior design continues to play a critical role in impacting the human experience. The COVID-19 pandemic unearthed many discrepancies in society, including economic and social inequalities. *Given that interior environments have the power to positively, or negatively, impact our quality of life, how can interior design and its positive impact be available, accessible, and achievable to the larger population? What needs to be considered when designing environments to be more equitable and inclusive to diverse occupants? How can organizations use interior design as a tool to increase engagement of diverse populations of employees, clients and customers for greater diversity, equity, and inclusion?*

Researchers are asked to develop research questions rooted from one of these topics and propose a project that empirically investigates potential solutions, generates measurable results on the impact of design, and translates the findings into actionable design recommendations, guidelines, and/or tools that designers can apply in their design projects. We invite you to submit your research proposal to the ASID Foundation and use transformative research to help ensure that all people benefit from the power of design.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Submissions must be from a multi-disciplinary team, with at least one team member in the interior design discipline.

Previously submitted, but not awarded, proposals may be edited or modified, as necessary, for resubmission and reconsideration for this year.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit the following materials using the [secure online application form](#) by **September 15, 2022 (11:59 pm ET)**.

**Note: This is a blind review process. NO identifiers should be included in the research proposal.*

- Grant Type (A: seed/start-up fund; B: research project)
- Research Proposal (Include the following content in PDF file format)
 - Project Title
 - Purpose of Study (max. 50 words)
 - Abstract (max. 250 words)
 - Proposal (max. 1200 words)
 - Summary of recent relevant research,
 - Identified knowledge gaps
 - Research question(s)/hypotheses
 - Significance of research to design practitioners and users
 - Methodology (max. 500 words)

- Images/Graphs/Charts
- Budget (include other funding source¹ and expenses for administrative costs²)
- Timeline
- Dissemination Plan (include potential audiences and targeted media outlets)
- Contingency Plan (include expected or potential challenges that might delay the research schedule or compromise the findings, and any steps that will be taken to minimize risks)
- Resource Citations (i.e., reference list)
- Research Team Bios (max. 150 words for each member)
- Applicant contact information (legal name, title, affiliation, address, telephone number)

EVALUATION PROCESS

The evaluation process will include a four-stage review.

1. The ASID Research & Knowledge team will screen all submissions against the requirements.
2. The Donghia Foundation will examine submissions for alignment/compliance with the ASID Foundation Transform Grant mission.
3. Through a blind review process, the program jury will evaluate submissions, and subsequently, discuss prioritized studies to make recommendations.
4. The ASID Foundation's Board of Trustees will review recommendations and make all final funding decisions.

¹ Proposals with matching funds and/or in-kind resources will receive additional consideration.

² Note that no more than 9 percent (9%) of the Foundation's total grant may be used for administrative expenses, including "indirect" or "overhead" costs.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Submissions will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Significance of study
 - a. Addresses critical gap in industry knowledge
 - b. Advances design understanding
 - c. Transforms the practice of interior design
2. Innovativeness of research questions
3. Applicability of research findings
 - a. Directly relevant to design solutions
 - b. Easy to translate
 - c. Keen interest to design practitioners and clients
4. Strength of research methods
5. Strength and breadth of target audience reach
6. Feasibility of budget and timeline
7. Contingency plan
8. Overall completeness and quality of submittal

QUESTIONS?

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TIMELINE

RFP Release Date

July 6, 2022

Submission Due Date

September 15, 2022 (11:59 pm ET)

Announcement of Grant Recipients

November 2022

Earliest Project Start Date

December 1, 2022

Grant A Project Completion Date

September 1, 2023

Grant B Project Completion Date

March 1, 2024

Latest Project Start Date

January 2, 2023

Grant A Project Completion Date

October 2, 2023

Grant B Project Completion Date

April 2, 2024

ASID FOUNDATION MISSION

upon its resources to promote meaningful collaboration and research, award scholarships and fund projects that broaden the value of interior design. Created in 1975, the ASID Foundation's mission is to support endeavors that capture and disseminate knowledge, encourage innovation and benefit the health, safety and welfare of the public through interior design research, scholarships and education. The Foundation's current initiatives include the National Building Museum Capital Council; The 1+ project with Public Architecture; CIDA's Standards Development Project; the Transform Research Grant; as well as a comprehensive scholarship program. Visit asidfoundation.org for more information.

ASID FOUNDATION RESEARCH COMMITTEE

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