

The University of Cincinnati
**Society & Culture Research Advancement Program
Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)**

Up to four \$25,000 grants to be awarded

Building upon previous investments in arts, humanities, and social sciences (AHSS) and growing out of UC's **Next Lives Here Urban Futures Pathway: Society & Culture Initiative**, the Office of Research seeks to incentivize novel research, exceptional scholarship, and the production of creative and performing art works that creatively address issues of increasing societal significance. The Society & Culture Advancement Program will now follow a **two-stage, LOI and finalist round process**. This program is open to UC faculty whose proposed activities fall within the areas of the arts, humanities and social sciences. The application budget limit for the Society & Culture Research Advancement program is up to \$25,000 per award.

The first stage of the process involves the submission of a 2-page letter of interest (LOI). Up to ten finalists will then be invited to submit a full proposal and pitch at a pitch event that will be held between 9am-5pm the week of April 29, 2024 (anticipated).

Applicants are asked to consider, articulate, and ultimately measure how the project positively impacts society. As high-level frames of reference, the Office of Research refers applicants to two impact frameworks:

1. [The Arts & Social Impact Explorer](#)
2. [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(UNSDGs\)](#)

KEY DATES

FOA Release: Thursday, January 11, 2024

LOI Deadline: Friday, February 2, 2024, 5:00 pm EST

Finalists Notified: Week of February 26, 2024 (*anticipated*)

Final Proposal Deadline: Friday, March 29, 2024, 5:00 pm EST (for finalists only)

Finalist Pitch Presentations: Week of April 29, 2024 (*anticipated*)

Grantees Announced: Week of May 6, 2024 (*anticipated*)

Grant Project Period: May 2024 – May 2026

Eligibility & expectations

- Eligible applicants include UC faculty members with at least an 80% FTE appointment;
- Faculty holding a primary appointment in one of UC's affiliates (CCHMC, VA and Shriners) are eligible to contribute effort to a team, but may not be the primary applicant;

- External collaborators are eligible to contribute effort to a team, but may not be primary applicant;
- So to foster and increase intellectual, cultural, racial, and gender-based diversity in our applicant pool and to encourage new and early-career applicants, faculty who have received Office of Research funding in the last five years (2017-2022) from the AHSS, Pilot, Pivot, Scholars, Strategic, Urban Futures Pathway and/or the Digital Futures program are **not** eligible to serve as **primary** applicant.¹

LOI: Information required

All applicants will be required to provide their name, UC email, UC ID-number, college, department/unit, date of hire/appointment at UC, and proposal title within the Wizehive portal prior to uploading the required pdf file. Also, applicants are required to select the area designation for review/award based on their proposed activities, which can differ from their department/unit home.

The LOI should contain the following information in the order listed below and will be submitted as a single PDF file. Figures/images may be included but cannot be used to exceed the page limit. No hyperlinks or redirects to external information may be included. Your submission must adhere to general requirements of 12 point font, 1 inch margins, and single column layout.

1. Research Interest and Impact (2 pages maximum)
 - Title of Research Project
 - Name, Title, College, and Department of primary applicant
 - Names, Titles, College, & Department of internal/affiliate collaborators
 - Names, Titles, and Organization names of external collaborators
 - Problem Statement (300 word max) *What problem do you want to solve & why?*
 - Approach (300 word max) *How are you going to solve this problem?*
 - Impact (300 word max) *What is the anticipated outcome and who will be ultimately impacted?*
2. Bibliography (1-page max – any standard format is acceptable)
3. 3-page biosketch/CV (template available on the website)

LOI: Submission

LOIs will be submitted online via *Wizehive*, a user-friendly, internal funding software. When the platform is ready to accept LOIs, the live link to apply will be posted at <https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview>.

LOI: Review Criteria

- Project Merit
- Clarity, significance and relevance of project & the problem the project addressed
- Innovation/creativity/feasibility of the proposed approach

¹ Previously funded faculty are encouraged to serve as a collaborator to a primary applicant - particularly those led by an eligible, early career or new faculty member, an eligible female member of the faculty, and/or an eligible, URM member of the UC faculty.

- Suitability of the applicant/team to undertake and complete the proposed project.
- Compliance with Application Guidelines in the FOA and the submission portal.

Finalist Selection & Review Process

Each LOI will be reviewed by a team assembled by Office of Research Program staff. No more than ten (10) finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal. Details on the full proposal process and required materials will be distributed to all finalists directly.

Review & Selection Process

One-step program applications and two-step program *final* applications will be reviewed by a diverse team of previously funded faculty and others such as emeriti faculty, UC affiliates, UC staff, and external subject matter experts. Application scores and comments will be made available to all applicants following the public announcement of awards. The Office of Research will not be providing scores or feedback on LOIs. The Office of Research review process is managed to ensure no conflict of interest issues arise

Terms & Conditions

1. Allowable costs are those listed in the primary applicant's proposal budget;
2. Grant funds cannot be used for direct support of CCHMC, VA or Shriner's employees and/or for supplemental salary for UC faculty;
3. Neither indirect costs nor graduate or undergraduate student tuition can be charged to research funded via Office of Research funds;
4. All work resulting from the internally funded research effort must acknowledge "University of Cincinnati, Office of Research, (and the name the particular internal program)" as the research funding source;
5. You (grantees) agree to submit a final report (template) which clearly indicates project outcomes, deliverables and impacts upon completion of the project at the end of the funding term.
6. You (grantees) agree to allow the UC Office of Research to the internally funded research project via the web, social media, news outlets, and the Office of Research newsletter, *Findings*.
7. In accepting Society & Culture funding, you (grantees) agree to serve as a reviewer for the Society & Culture internal funding program the following two years (FY25, FY26).

QUESTIONS?

research@uc.edu