

## Living Landscapes Incubator Request for Proposals

### **Program Description and Goals**

The planning, and design, and management of landscapes, environments, and infrastructure that support sustainable, livable, and equitable communities is a key challenge of our time. With a generous grant from the Bullitt Foundation, **this project will fund three to five teams to support the development or extension of programs, research projects, or other interdisciplinary efforts to generate, translate, and/or implement knowledge to meet that challenge.** The projects will be transdisciplinary collaborations involving faculty, students, and staff from the College of Built Environments, the College of the Environment, the School of Public Health, Urban@UW, and the communities they are working with. We will prioritize funding for projects that engage underrepresented communities, work with external partners, include multiple academic units from across the UW and directly address issues of ecosystem health, equity and inclusion. We will also prioritize bold efforts that identify possible pathways toward sustainable, on-going collaborations.

The global pandemic and the restrictions that have followed have highlighted how vital personal and community connections are between people, and how important access to green and vibrant outdoor spaces are to our mental and physical health. The recent amplifications of ongoing racial injustice have revealed how divided we are as a national society, and how much work is needed to eliminate systemic racism from our institutions, our policies, and our plans. And finally, climate change and the resulting extreme weather events in our region and beyond have shown us how closely our well-being is tied to the management of our natural systems. To address these challenges, we need vibrant rural communities, towns, and cities that actively work to foster ecological, community and societal health. We need physical, political, and social infrastructures that serve to equitably reduce carbon emissions and are adaptable to our changing climate. We need to rethink policies—education, transportation, community planning, health, and housing, to name but a few— so that they foster sustainability, resilience and belonging. If the opportunity for this to occur can happen anywhere, it can certainly be here in the Pacific Northwest.

The Living Landscape Incubator will award 3-5 projects with up to \$25,000 in funding.

#### *Note on additional funds and projects related to the Center for Urban Horticulture:*

The projects will be selected as pilots or incubators, meant to investigate or test a new or emerging idea or approach, or to initiate a new program of collaborative research. As such, we will assist the teams of selected projects with finding funding for continuing their work after the funding from this project concludes. As part of this effort, we will invite potential funders to the spring 2022 presentations. We will also, when possible, make new connections on and off campus for the project teams. In addition, we will explore opportunities for synergies between the funded projects and on-going and future projects and programs at the Center for Urban Horticulture at the UW.

This project is a collaboration among the College of Built Environments, the College of the Environment, the School of Public Health, and Urban@UW. Funding for the grant program is generously provided by The Bullitt Foundation.

### **Eligibility**

- Projects should be community-led. Eligible projects will be developed and led by a non-UW organization, with faculty or PI-eligible research staff at the University of Washington as part of the project team.
  - Priority will be given to teams with existing collaboration with the University, but applicants without a University partner are still encouraged to apply.
  - Priority will be given to cross-campus collaborations.
- Projects should contribute to a sustainable, livable, equitable, and just Pacific Northwest.
- Projects must be transdisciplinary, with an emphasis on transcending traditional disciplinary boundaries and integrating ideas from multiple ways of knowing to create novel solutions. Teams should include participants from multiple areas of expertise in order to meet this requirement.
- Projects should include research, development or evaluation work related to increasing or improving green space: green infrastructure, street trees, parks, green rooftops, community gardens, etc.
- The funds cannot be used in support of general administrative costs.

### **Project Requirements**

#### *Team*

The team will be composed of:

- A community partner
  - Partners may be individuals with or without affiliation to organizations
  - If selected, the community partner will need to be a registered non-profit or register as a vendor at the University of Washington in order for funding to be disbursed. If teams don't already have these qualifications, help will be available for the vendor registration process. Information about this process is available here: <https://finance.uw.edu/ps/suppliers>
- UW faculty or PI-eligible staff
  - Preferably include faculty, staff, and/or students from multiple campuses and/or multiple departments
- Any other team members necessary for the support and success of the proposed initiative

#### *Scope*

Types of projects funded could include:

1. A completely new, co-developed project.
2. Developing a proposal for a need or articulating a problem.
3. Getting an existing project idea off the ground.
4. Convening a team to co-develop a project and proposal (funding the time and space to come together).
5. Extending an existing project in a complementary or new direction.
6. Taking steps to implement or develop solutions based on an existing mature project.

Projects should frame visions of a sustainable, livable, equitable, and just Pacific Northwest, and proposals should include a description of the ways in which the project would contribute to that vision.

### *Deliverables*

Deliverables will be primarily defined by the project teams, but must include:

- Measures of impact, as defined by project teams
- A final presentation/pitch in the spring of 2022, including a statement of new ideas or initiatives that came out of the project.
- Participation in a workshop across all projects, with feedback on what worked and what could have been better in the grant process; workshop timing TBD

### **Proposal Components**

1. Letter of support from a faculty or PI-eligible research staff at the University of Washington
2. A maximum one page statement addressing:
  - a. The need the project is addressing, toward the vision of a sustainable, livable, equitable, and just Pacific Northwest
  - b. What impact the funding will have
  - c. Long-term outcomes, continued future success, and sustained impact
3. A maximum half-page list or statement of deliverables/measures of impact
4. An introduction to the project team, including their areas of expertise and how they contribute to the transdisciplinary nature of the project
5. A few sentences describing how the funds will be used to meet the project goals

### **Submission Instructions**

Email required documents as a **single PDF** to [jsebert@uw.edu](mailto:jsebert@uw.edu) by **11:59pm on September 3, 2021**.

### **Timeline**

- August 9, 2021: RFP released
- **September 3, 2021: application deadline (11:59pm Pacific)**
- Sept 20, 2021: Awards announced
- June 2022 (exact date TBD): final presentations and workshop

### **Proposal Evaluation Approach**

Projects will be evaluated based on the degree to which they:

1. Contribute to a sustainable, livable, equitable, and just Pacific Northwest
2. Leadership by non-UW partners
3. Are transdisciplinary
4. Establish new directions for impactful and engaged research
5. Address issues of equity and inclusion
6. Meaningfully engage underrepresented communities, defined in the context of the project
7. Define a clear path to action
8. Are designed to result in longer term outcomes and potential for continued future success

*Additional factors of consideration/bonus points:*

- Cross-campus collaboration
- Collaboration with or work at the UW Center for Urban Horticulture
- Inclusion of University of Washington students

- Leadership include person(s) identifying with BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and/or other underrepresented groups
- Matching of funds from other organizations