

Instructions for Submitting a PROPOSAL to the Catalyst Fund

Application Period: January 7 through February 20, 2019

Step 1: Confirm that you want to submit a Proposal, not an Idea.

Through a **Proposal**, you are requesting funds to pilot a project directly. Funds will be awarded to your organization if the Proposal is selected and your organization will be responsible for conducting the project.

If you are presenting a concept that you believe will benefit the field, but which you would like LYRasis to address, then submit an **Idea** to the Catalyst Fund instead of a Proposal. If selected, LYRasis staff will design and implement the program, service or solution proposed in the idea. The application form, instructions and template for Ideas are available on the Catalyst Fund website at <https://www.lyrasis.org/Leadership/Pages/Catalyst-Fund.aspx>.

Step 2: Review the criteria for Proposals

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Does this Proposal **innovatively test-and-try** a solution to a well-defined problem or address a well-defined opportunity?
- Does the Proposal **advance an important objective** of the library, archives and/or museum communities?
- What is the potential for the Proposal to **impact** and serve the broad LYRasis community?
 - Is it a common and/or shared issue for members of the LYRasis community?
 - Are the outputs scalable beyond a single institution?
 - Is the Proposal of interest to others outside of your organization?
- Is the plan of work appropriate to the Proposal's goal, and is the budget reasonable and justified?

In 2019, the LYRasis Leaders Circle is interested in projects that cross organizational boundaries and engage diverse types of libraries, archives and/or museums in partnerships which expand the impact of innovative solutions to shared challenges. Collaboration is not a requirement but is encouraged in implementation and/or demonstrating the potential impact of your proposed project.

If you wish to submit a Proposal to continue work on a project previously funded by the Catalyst Fund, you may apply, but the application will receive no special consideration and will be judged by the same criteria as others. The work on the prior Catalyst Fund project must be completed and the required final report submitted to LYRasis prior to submission of a new

application. In addition, the new Catalyst Fund submission must include a description of how the previously funded project met its goals and what new activities are proposed.

Step 3: Prepare and Submit your Proposal

To submit a Proposal,

- A. Prepare a two-page narrative description as a PDF following the template described below, available at the Catalyst Fund website at <https://www.lyrasis.org/Leadership/Pages/Catalyst-Fund.aspx>.
- B. Complete the online submission form and upload your two-page Proposal PDF at <https://www.lyrasis.org/Leadership/Pages/catalyst-fund-proposal-form.aspx>.

It is best to gather and prepare the information in advance of filling out the online submission form as you cannot save the form mid-process and return to it at a future time.

A. The Proposal Narrative Template

Follow the template described in the table below to make your Proposal. The template is offered for optional download in MS Word format through the Catalyst Fund website at <https://www.lyrasis.org/Leadership/Pages/Catalyst-Fund.aspx>.

Please follow these general guidelines in creating your description.

- Font must be 10 point or larger.
- Margins must be 0.5 inches or larger.
- You may change font type and margin size in the optional MS Word template as long as they meet the above requirements.
- The final product must be converted to a PDF for submission.
- The Proposal cannot exceed two pages. Proposals longer than two pages will be rejected.
- No appendices or attachments are allowed unless they fit within the two-page Proposal limit.
- Within the Proposal, address topics in the order presented, using a table at the end to provide information about your budget. You may change or omit subheadings offered as part of the description below.

Applicant Organization: <i>Name of organization submitting Proposal</i>	Amount: \$ <i>Total requested, which should match the total at the end of the budget table.</i>
Proposal Title: <i>Provide a brief, relevant title for your Proposal, maximum 150 characters with spaces. Note that this should be the same as used on the online submission form.</i>	

Project Goal:
 Provide a brief statement of the goal or purpose of your Proposal, maximum 500 characters with spaces. Note that this should be the same text as used on the online submission form.

Project Description:

- Describe the problem, need, issue or challenge that your project will address, why your project is innovative, and how it could help others or advance knowledge or practice for the field.
 - Emphasize the potential impact and how the project will benefit the LYRASIS community.
 - Refer to related work, past or present, if relevant.
 - If the Proposal continues work previously funded by the Catalyst Fund, describe how the previously funded project met its goals and how the new project builds from or expands upon the earlier project.
- Describe your project plan, including activities, timeframe, resource requirements and collaborators if relevant.
- Provide names and titles for the principal investigator(s) and other key participants in the project.

Budget:
 Complete rows in a table to list expense lines, describe the basis for budget figures, and summarize line item costs. The total of line items in the cost column should be entered in the "Total Budget Request" box at the top of the narrative template.

- Catalyst Funds cannot be used for overhead or capital expenditures.
- Include \$1,200 in your budget for travel for one person to attend the two-day LYRASIS annual Member Summit in fall 2019.
 - Travel is estimated at \$500/coach airfare, \$400 for two hotel nights, and \$300 for out-of-pocket expenses. You may apply unused Summit travel funds to other aspects of your project's expenses. If you anticipate that travel would exceed the figure provided, you may increase this budget line if you explain the basis for the additional anticipated cost.
 - Other travel expenses should be based on your organization's policies and anticipated costs for destination(s) and days of travel.
- Include in the template only expenses that will be part of the award, if successful. Do NOT include any cost share from your organization in the budget template. Matching funds or cost share is not required or expected.
- Sample budget provided below.

Line	Basis	Cost
Travel to Member Summit	As provided by LYRASIS	\$1,200
Consultant	10 days at \$1,000/day	\$10,000
Consultant Travel	Chicago to/from Denver for 3 days at \$400 airfare, \$450 hotel, and \$150 per diem	\$1,000
Total Budget		\$12,200

B. The Online Submission Form

Provide the following information in the appropriate spaces on the online submission form at <https://www.lyrasis.org/Leadership/Pages/catalyst-fund-proposal-form.aspx>.

1. Name of applicant organization
 - *This should match the name of the organization provided at the top of the Proposal Narrative described in section A above. The online form allows 100 characters including spaces.*
2. Is your organization a member of LYRASIS?
 - *Note that only LYRASIS members are eligible to apply to the Catalyst Fund. If you are unsure of your organization's status, check the current list of LYRASIS members at www.lyrasis.org or contact Member Support at membersupport@lyrasis.org.*
3. Contact or Project Director: First and Last Names, Telephone number, Email address
 - *This is the person to whom future communications regarding the Proposal will be sent. Only one project director can be listed on the online form, although co-directors may be described in the narrative.*
4. Title for the Proposal
 - *This should match the title provided at the top of the Proposal Narrative described above in section A. The online form allows 150 characters including spaces.*
5. Briefly state the goal or purpose of the project.
 - *Note that this statement will serve as a brief introduction to your Proposal for Leaders Circle review.*
 - *This statement should match the brief goal statement provided at the top of the Proposal Narrative described above in section A. The online form allows a maximum of 500 characters including spaces.*
6. Total amount requested
 - *This amount should match the request provided at the top of the Proposal Narrative described in Section A above. Use whole U.S. dollars.*
7. Agreement to terms of awards

If the project is selected for funding, the applicant organization agrees to:

- Provide a final written report and webinar presentation, openly accessible under a Creative Commons attribution license, for sharing with the community on the LYRASIS website.

- Present results via an in-person presentation at the 2019 LYRASIS Member Summit either directly or through a LYRASIS-approved representative.
 - Make available any software products created with Catalyst Funds on a royalty-free basis according to the terms of an open source license and in an open source repository (such as GitHub).
 - Be financially responsible and use the funds specifically for the project as approved.
 - Communicate and/or meet regularly with an appointed LYRASIS staff liaison during the project period, as mutually agreed-upon at the start of the project.
8. Upload your 2-page PDF Proposal Narrative (section A above) in the designated box.
- *Save your document as a PDF prior to upload. Only PDFs will be accepted.*
 - *Proposals longer than 2 pages will not be accepted.*
9. Select the Submit button at the bottom of the online form.

Step 4: After Submission

You will receive a confirmation email from LYRASIS after submitting a Proposal. The email will contain the information provided through the online submission form and include an attachment with your PDF narrative.

Following close of the Catalyst Fund submission period on February 20, 2019, Proposals will be sent to multiple reviewers for evaluation according to the criteria listed above. Evaluations will be completed in April. The LYRASIS Leaders Circle will make final selections in May. Applicants will be notified of results in June 2019.

If you have questions as you prepare your Proposal or while it is under review, please contact us at catalystfund@lyrasis.org.