

Instructions for Submitting a PROPOSAL to the Catalyst Fund

Applications Due by: February 19, 2021

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. 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 research and develop, then submit an **Idea** to the Catalyst Fund instead of a Proposal. Ideas are recommendations for LYRASIS staff to investigate and potentially address as new programs, services or solutions for members. The instructions and template for Ideas are available on the Catalyst Fund website at <https://www.lyrasis.org/Leadership/Pages/Catalyst-Fund.aspx>.

A LYRASIS member organization may submit no more than ONE proposal and ONE idea to the Catalyst Fund.

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 explore the feasibility of 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 project's goal, and is the budget reasonable and justified?

The LYRASIS Leaders Circle is interested in projects that cross organizational boundaries and engage diverse types of libraries, archives and museums in partnerships that 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. This year, the Catalyst Fund is piloting a new thematic track and welcoming applications specifically focused in the area of Open-Source Software (OSS.) Applications that keep the values and creative concepts of the Fund listed (above) in mind will likely meet with the most success.

Applications for the OSS track will be evaluated on strong needs/case statements and how well institutions can describe how the results can be adapted and used in initiatives serving cultural and scientific heritage organizations.

If you wish to submit a Proposal to continue work on a project previously funded by the Catalyst Fund, you may apply. 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 the previously funded project’s accomplishments as well as new proposed activities.

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. An optional template in MS Word format is available through 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

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 narrative.

- Font must be 10 point or larger.
- Margins must be 0.5 inches or larger.
- 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 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: <i>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.</i>	
Project Description:	

1. 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 previous project met its goals and how the new proposal builds upon earlier work.*
2. Describe your project plan, including your objectives, activities, outputs, timeframe, resource requirements, and, if relevant, collaborators and sustainability plans.
 - *Projects should start no earlier than July 1 and be completed within 12 months.*
 - *Where appropriate, proposals should include a brief sustainability plan. If there are questions about how to address this, what should be considered, or whether this is relevant to your proposal, contact LYRASIS at catalystfund@lyrasis.org for assistance.*
3. 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 2020.*
 - *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. The online form allows 100 characters including spaces.*

2. Is your organization a member of LYRASIS?
 - *Note that only LYRASIS members may 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 communications regarding the Proposal will be sent. Only one project director can be listed on the online form, although co-directors may be listed 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 an introduction to your Proposal for Leaders Circle review.*
 - *This statement should match the goal statement provided at the top of the Proposal Narrative described 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. 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 at the 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, 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 by mid-June. Project start dates should be planned for July 1.

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