



Catalyst Fund: The Application Process & Overview

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Meaningful Dialogue | Thought Leadership | \$100,000 to Fund New Ideas | Ideation Sandbox

- Leaders Circle
- Leaders Forums
- Catalyst Fund
- Member Summit

LYRISIS leverages world-class skills and our community's shared knowledge to create programs designed to put our members at the forefront of collaboration and innovation.





- **What is the Catalyst Fund?**
 - The LYRASILS Catalyst Fund is an award program to fund new ideas and innovative projects by LYRASILS members.
 - We have \$150,000 available this year
- **How to apply?**
 - Members submit their **idea** or **proposal** via an ONLINE web form.
 - <https://www.lyrasis.org/Leadership/Pages/Catalyst-Fund.aspx>



- **What is the difference between an idea and proposal?**
 - **Proposals** are for funding to pilot your own project. If selected by the Leaders Circle, funds will be sent to your organization to implement the project.
 - https://www.lyrasis.org/Leadership/Documents/CF20_Proposal_Instructions.pdf
 - **Idea applications** recommend a concept that you believe will benefit the field and that you would like LYRASIS to address. If selected by the Leaders Circle, LYRASIS staff will design the implementation plan and distribute resources as appropriate to pilot the idea.
 - https://www.lyrasis.org/Leadership/Documents/CF20_Idea_Instructions.pdf

- **How large is the fund?**

- This year LYRASIS has set aside up to \$150,000.
- We anticipate giving 5-7 awards of lesser value; however, the maximum award request is \$100,000.
- Over the past three years the average award for a proposal was \$24,585.
- The average ask based on 130 proposals is \$27,520.

- **What are some of the criteria for consideration?**

- Does your idea/proposal serve a broad community outside of a single institution?
- Does the solution solve a well defined problem?
- Is the solution scalable and adoptable by other organizations?

- The Leaders Circle is especially interested in projects that cross organizational boundaries and engage diverse types of libraries, archives and museums **in partnerships** to expand the impact of innovative solutions to shared challenges.
 - When institutions mention partnerships in your application the reviewers will be looking for evidence of collaborative planning at the outset.
- Last year, during the LYRasis Member Summit we heard from three projects that were working with historically marginalized and/or underserved communities.
 - Building trust takes time.
 - Community groups may have their own projects to focus on!

- **Possible uses of the fund may include:**
 - Development of prototypes.
 - Developing apps or tools.
 - Conducting market or community research to validate new ideas.
 - Testing new products and services.
 - Evaluating new opportunities or services.
 - Supporting temporary staff to fulfill the project.

- **Who decides what ideas or proposals are funded?**
 - Reviewed by LYRASIS staff.
 - Reviewed by field experts.
 - Members of Leaders Circle will vote on submissions.

- Columbus Metropolitan Library, My Upload: Engaging library users in digital collections. \$25,200
- King County Library System, Conversational Artificial Intelligence: Bringing the Library to Your Living Room. \$34,600
- Florida International University, AI for Archives: Using Facial Recognition to Enhance Metadata. \$25,000
- Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, Using Linked Open Data for Georgia's Natural, Cultural and Historic Organizations' Disaster Response. \$16,190
- University of Michigan, Open Data Toolkit based on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access Principles. \$25,380

- **What are important dates?**

- Applications due midnight U.S. eastern time February 20, 2020.
- Recruitment for Catalyst Fund Reviewers continues through February 20, 2020.
- Reviews occur in March/April.
- Leaders Circle votes in May.
- LYRASIS staff assigned as staff liaisons.
- Recipients notified early June 2020.
- Presentation at LYRASIS Summit Meeting October 27, 2020.
- Projects must be complete by June 2021.

A program of



leaderscircle
vision, strategy, collaboration

What if I have questions?

- Reach out! We are here to help. We are happy to set a time to talk through your concept.
- We can review materials and provide feedback if you ask before February 13, 2019.
- Email questions directly to catalystfund@lyrasis.org



Leigh Grinstead will be at booth #1714 to discuss your proposal and ideas. Appointments encouraged!

- Friday, January 24, 5:30-7:00pm Grand Opening Reception in the Exhibit Hall
- Saturday, Jan 25, 10:00 a.m. - Noon



- Let's review the Proposal Instructions. **NOTE:** The Idea Instructions and application will be slightly different.
- https://www.lyrasis.org/Leadership/Documents/CF20_Proposal_Instructions.pdf



Let's hear from you!

DISCUSSION

Who can I talk to *before* submitting my application?



Leigh A. Grinstead, leigh.grinstead@lyrasis.org

Sandy Nyberg, sandy.nyberg@lyrasis.org

Who can I talk about the Leaders Circle?

Jennifer Bielewski, jennifer.bielewski@lyrasis.org

Thank you for attending!

We welcome continued conversation with any questions, idea/proposal pitches, or brainstorming afterwards. Contact us!