Harvard Culture Lab Innovation Fund

About
The Office for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging administers an innovation fund to award grants to Harvard students, staff, faculty, and academic appointees to pursue projects and ideas that seek to strengthen Harvard’s capacity to affirmatively and collectively advance a culture of belonging. The Harvard Culture Lab Innovation Fund (CLIF) is designed to encourage experimentation to uncover solutions, address challenges, and grow a network of innovators striving towards sustainable inclusive excellence at Harvard. The Culture Lab Innovation Fund aims to catalyze a cultural transformation to achieve full belonging and empowerment for all members of the Harvard community.

“Belonging is the experience that flows from participating fully in the chances Harvard offers to learn, to create, to discover, and to achieve”

Funding
The Fund will award competitive grants to teams to pilot and scale innovative ideas by providing modest but meaningful support for a variety of projects including, but not limited to, research, programs, events, and the development of new databases or technologies.

Guidelines

Grant Guidelines:

- Most awarded proposals will receive between $2,000 to $15,000
- Exceptional proposals or those exhibiting strong potential for scale will be considered for $25,000 or more
- Teams of two or more are welcome to apply
- The award period is one year
- It is expected that award recipients will provide a general report outlining spending and project progress to the Culture Lab Innovation Fund (CLIF) at the end of the award period.

Review Criteria
For the FY20 funding cycle the CLIF priority theme is “Advancing Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging through Technology Driven Solutions”. These are innovative ideas that leverage technology to address challenges around diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging at Harvard. We encourage you to review previously awarded projects to see a range of examples and those within this theme.

All proposals will be judged according to the following criteria:

Inclusion, Innovation, Collaboration, & Impact
• **Alignment** - Project aligns with at least one of the four goals and four tools outlined by the Presidential Task Force Report on Inclusion and Belonging and presents a clear pathway to achieving our vision of sustainable inclusive excellence.

• **Inclusive Design** – Project teams that apply inclusive design principles to their project to ensure adherence with the digital access policy and meet event planning standards as identified by Harvard University Disability Resources will be highly valued.

• **Innovation** – Offers a novel or innovative approach to an existing challenge.

• **Measurable Impact** – The application outlines actions the team can execute within the designated time frame. Measures of success are clearly defined.

• **One Harvard** – Project teams should aim to include a mixture of faculty, student, staff, and/or postdoctoral fellows. Teams exhibiting cross-School and cross-functional and/or multi-disciplinary collaboration will be especially valued.

**Eligibility**
Harvard University benefits-eligible faculty, staff, and postdoctoral researchers are eligible to apply. All full-time, degree-seeking Harvard undergraduate or graduate student, postdoc, or clinical fellows are eligible to apply.

**Selection Process**

First Round Judging
Application Review
Review committee review applications to identify first round finalists.

Second Round Judging
Pitch Contest
First round finalists pitch to DIB Leadership Council and winners are awarded.

**Timeline**

**October**
• Applications Open
• Information Sessions
• Applicant Support

**December**
• Applications close
• First round judging begins

**March**
• Finalists pitch to panel of judges

**April**
• Award recipients announced and funding begins