



U-SoA Social Justice Prize

Call For Submissions

The University of Miami School of Architecture invites U-SoA Students, Faculty and Staff to submit proposals for the U-SoA Social Justice Prize. By recommendation of the DEI Committee the Prize funds programming that supports the advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion in U-SoA and/or the built environment.

Social and environmental justice in the context of a school of architecture entails a wide range of topics: the trends and effects of climate gentrification on economically disadvantaged communities; the unevenly distributed impacts of pollution and toxic waste; ADA and universal design; legislature that impacts safe spaces for discussion of identity; disparity of resources resulting from urban planning policies such as redlining; development of affordable housing, and so on. Architects, planners, developers, and other practitioners working with the built environment are well-positioned to play an active role in shaping dialogue and approaches towards these issues, and U-SoA should facilitate those conversations.

The mission of the U-SoA Social Justice Prize is to actively engage the U-SoA community in dialogue and scholarship that foster a culture of belonging within the School and beyond. Funding will be awarded to projects that demonstrate an innovative approach to advancing the values of diversity, equity and inclusion. All proposals, even those that touch on climate issues, should have precisely developed social equity goals and should identify the specific targeted groups whose voice will be amplified by the proposal and how. Projects may be but are not limited to events, installations, exhibitions, or course creation/development, and may be proposed by any member of the U-SoA community.

Examples of possible projects:

- Networking event with minority-led companies to connect students with BIPOC industry leaders
- Design and teaching of course that focuses on social and/or environmental justice in the built environment
- Lecture series focusing on DEI topics
- Roundtable event concerning equity and inclusion within U-SoA
- Design, fabrication, and construction of installation project in response to social justice movement

Proposal topics and formats are not limited to those listed here.

Submissions Must Include

1. COVER SHEET (**one page**), which should include:

- Title of the project;
- Name, title, department, phone number, and email address of project lead(s);
- List of project collaborators; and
- A brief description of and purpose for the project.

2. PROPOSAL NARRATIVE, which includes (in **three pages or less**):

Project description

- What is the issue or challenge you are looking to address?
- How does your project or initiative address your identified issue or challenge? What are the major activities or components?
- How does this project align to school-wide goals related to diversity, equity and inclusion?
- How will you collaborate with or involve other members of U-SoA (students, staff, faculty, other departments, units, alumni) and/or community members?
- Who is your target audience? (U-SoA community, UM community, general public, students, faculty, staff, etc)

Evaluation

- How will you evaluate the success of your program or initiative? (indicators, data collection methods)
- Timeframe for project completion, estimated event or launch date

Budget and Justification

A complete and detailed budget that includes the precise dollar amount requested and justification for the request.

- Commitment for funding is given only on an annual basis, and such commitment should not be construed as a commitment for future funding.
- Lack of a clear, itemized budget is grounds for denying funding.
- If funds are to be used for the purchase of equipment or materials (including computer software or hardware), the proposal must indicate why they are essential to the project, who will be responsible for them, and how they will be used after the project has been completed.
- All funds must be spent in accordance with university fiscal and procurement policies.
- If you need assistance creating a budget, please connect with Germane Barnes (g.barnes@miami.edu)

How To Apply

Upload your application in PDF format at the following link:

https://umiami.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eDT0EguI ranEJqm

Submission Deadline

S24 cycle:

Applications Open: February 12, 2024

Application Deadline: March 08, 2024

Award Notifications: March 29, 2024

Submissions for projects responding to current events may be accepted on a rolling basis outside of regular application periods if funds remain available. Off cycle applicants are advised to inquire before submitting application. Submissions for course creation must be submitted one full semester in advance.

Eligibility

You must be a current student, staff member, or faculty member within the University of Miami School of Architecture to apply.

Selection Process

Proposals keeping in line with the mission of the DEI committee will be prioritized. Submissions will be reviewed by the DEI Committee based on the Review Criteria below. Recommendations will be made to the Dean's office for final approval by the Dean. Award notifications will be made by the DEI committee to the project leaders approximately three weeks after the submission deadline.

Review Criteria

All proposals will be judged according to the following criteria:

- The proposal addresses issues at the intersection of environmental and/or social justice and the built environment. The proposal must demonstrate a commitment to educating and cultivating a culture of belonging within U-SoA and UM.
- The project creates a collaborative and participatory environment to engage across disciplines, individuals, and communities.
- The project aligns with the UM's Culture of Belonging and is consistent with the mission and objectives outline by President Frenk's recent 15-point plan to improve and build upon diversity and inclusion.
- The project provides fair access to resources & opportunities.
- The proposal gives evidence of the necessary expertise to carry out the plan effectively.

- The proposal budget and timeline are reasonable and comprehensive in scope.
- The proposal includes an effective set of metrics for self-evaluation and post award reporting.

Funding Amounts

The amount ranges from \$1,000 to \$10,000, depending on the proposed project budget and assessed needs.

Maximum funding available is \$15,000 annually.

Funding Distribution

The disbursement of funds will meet the particular needs and timing of funded projects in consultation with the Budget office. Any funds spent prior to project approval are not guaranteed to be reimbursed.

Funds can be used for a variety of expenses including speakers' fees, project supplies, tools, project-related travel, event catering, and/or participant compensation.

Post Award Reporting

The Prize requires a commitment to submitting a final report including the documentation of the project with detailed outcomes and itemized expenditures.

Prize Evolution

The DEI committee is working with the Dean and the development team to secure external funding and potentially an endowment for a long-term consolidation of the award program. The guidelines outlined above may be adjusted in consultation with the funding sources/agencies.

Contact Sophie Juneau (s.juneau@miami.edu) or Germane Barnes (g.barnes@miami.edu) with any questions.

More information about DEI resources at U-SoA:
<https://www.arc.miami.edu/resources/dei/index.html>