

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF FACULTY GRANTS  
FOR URBAN INITIATIVE LECTURE SERIES**

Urban Initiative

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**FOCUS**

The Urban Initiative is requesting proposals for faculty grants providing funding for two university-wide urban lecture series addressing the Urban Initiative's focus on *moving toward 2050*. This lecture series should advance the Urban Initiative's core values (see attachment) and overarching theme of *Towards 2050: Designing Mid-Century Urban Societies*. There is no limit on the choice of topic, discipline, or school within these guidelines.

The lecture series may present the work of USC faculty or scholars from outside the university. Each lecture series should be organized, facilitated and coordinated by an interdisciplinary committee of USC faculty members. It may take place during spring 2005 or AY 2005/06.

**FUNDS AVAILABLE**

The Urban Initiative will provide \$30,000 for the series as a whole, for speakers' fees, publicity, space, hospitality, and travel. Each lecture that is part of the series should feature a university-wide presentation, a colloquium with Urban and Global Studies Fellows, and individual meetings by request. Lecturers should be expected to submit a written abstract of their lecture for publication on the Urban Initiative web site.

The Urban Initiative will administer the funds and contract for all major services for the lecture series.

**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

The Urban Initiative's Faculty Steering Committee will review proposals and make recommendations to the Urban Deans' Council for final approval. The assessment will apply the following criteria:

- Focus on a significant social problem with local, national and global implications for public policy (15 points)
- Linking fundamental and applied scholarship (15 points)
- Consistency with the Urban Initiative's themes and core values (15 points)
- Likelihood of enhancing USC's reputation for urban and global scholarship (10 points)
- Newsworthiness (15 points)
- Interdisciplinary in nature (10 points)
- Availability of speakers (10 points)
- Inclusion of an interdisciplinary USC faculty committee (10 points)

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

There is no standard form, but applicants must include the following in their proposal:

1. Name/School/Department and rank of proposers/Description of roles
2. Lecture series title
3. Short description of lecture series (100 words)
4. Detailed description of lecture series (not to exceed two single-spaced, 11 point font typescript pages.)
5. Schedule

Each faculty identified as a member of the lecture series committee must sign the proposal to indicate that their role is as described in the proposal. 25 copies of the complete proposal, and one electronic copy of the proposal should be submitted to the contact person listed below by 4:00 p.m., November 17. The electronic copy should be sent to [richard@usc.edu](mailto:richard@usc.edu).

## DEADLINES

November 17, 4:00 p.m.	Deadline for receiving proposals
December 14	Successful applicants notified

## CONTACT PERSON

Contact Richard Parks, Program Manager of the USC Urban Initiative at [richard@usc.edu](mailto:richard@usc.edu) or (213) 740-8181 with questions. 25 copies of the complete proposal should be delivered or sent to him at WPH 604, MC 4036 by 4:00 p.m. November 17.

## **Urban Initiative Values**

Adopted by the Urban Initiative Faculty Committee in December 2003

### **Preamble**

The Urban Initiative focus on moving toward 2050 is predicated on a set of underlying ethical principles for a viable civil society. The ethical core of these principles rests upon a commitment to decent human development and social capital in democratic systems. The core values of the Urban Initiative inform and guide all aspects of its work in undertaking scholarship that advances society at the local, national and global level. We, the Urban Initiative Faculty Committee, have articulated the following values.

### **Normative Values**

- We are concerned about evidence of growing political, social, and economic disparities that mark the divergent fortunes of different ethnic groups and about a growing divide between earlier and newer generations. Our goal is to provide knowledge, research and collective wisdom to institutions and leaders as they attempt to repair those divisions and provide a higher standard of equity.
- We are concerned about the long term consequences of inaction today. For lack of understanding and lack of consensus, problems have been allowed to fester and there is no long-term strategy in place for growing a more equitable and prosperous Los Angeles and all urban societies of the future. Our goal is to help foster a long-term vision among residents and leaders that can guide improvements necessary to forestall undesirable future consequences for Los Angeles, and all global cities.
- We are concerned about how best the University of Southern California, as an urban university, can exercise its moral obligation to bring its intellectual resources into the service of the region. Our goal is to contribute to problem solving in ways where we have strategic advantages to offer.
- We believe that infrastructure and urban environmental quality must be appropriate to support social goals and promote quality of life.

### **Process Values**

- We are concerned about the empowerment of people who experience disparities. Our goal is to conduct research in collaboration with subjects; we conduct research with people versus on them.
- We are concerned that research on Los Angeles be placed in a larger global framework in order to address issues of migration and globalization, that Los Angeles never be looked at in isolation from urban societies.
- We are hopeful for the future but not Pollyannaish. Our goal is to focus on constructive recommendations for social, political and organizational change.
- We support the principle that bringing interdisciplinary applied research to bear on difficult questions can best inform problem formulation, analysis and policy recommendations.
- We support urban development that utilizes resources from across the three economic sectors (public, nonprofit, for-profit).