2023 AIA Future Forward Grant
Virtual Q&A Session Responses

GENERAL APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Is the Future Forward Grant an award available for a firm?
No, this is an individual grant. A small group of individuals can apply, but a single leader must be designated to facilitate communication and grant funding disbursement.

How many individuals can be awarded a Future Forward Grant?
More than one individual can be awarded a Future Forward Grant. The jury may decide to split up the $10,000 amount to multiple individuals.

Who should the nomination/reference letter be from?
This should be from someone who knows you or knows the work you are applying to perform. They should be qualified to comment on your ability, the potential success of the project/proposal, and has your support. They can be an individual inside or outside your firm, professor, or mentor. They should not be a family member.

Is there a limit on how many ideas/applications each person can submit?
Multiple ideas may be submitted, but we suggest focusing your efforts into one best application. Each should be thoroughly thought through and supported by your nominating person(s). Multiple nominators may be recommended depending on the proposals.

Is there some flexibility early on to understand the work may not be done by the end of 2024?
The work deliverables should be completed within one year.

Do you have any advice on what should NOT be included in an application?
Please keep your name off the application other than in the reference letter. This will help the jury be impartial during their review. Clearly communicate your message. Consider brevity, as the jury will have many applications to review. Also, be sure to eliminate spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.

Who would be considered an expected benefactor for this project?
This would be the person/group who would benefit and use the project, product, or published research.

BUDGET AND FUNDING

How detailed does the proposed budget need to be?
The 2022 jury appreciated a budget that included a breakdown describing how the funds would be spent. Individuals are not required to ask for the entire $10,000 amount. The budget does not have to have an accounting of every dollar, but it should be thoughtfully established. Time and wages spent in development will be accepted as part of the budget, but the grant should not be used to supplement or replace an individual's salary.

If my employer lets me work on this project during working hours, can this be added towards matching funds?
Yes. Time spent working on the project, and the wages associated with that time, can count toward matching funds.

Does an LLC need to be established to help with the money transfer?
No, an LLC is not required. AIA National will assist with the money transfer once the Future Forward Grant has been awarded.

Is it necessary to participate in the 2024 AIA Conference on Architecture if I am selected as a grant award recipient?
Participation in the AIA Conference is not required, and proposal acceptance into the conference program is not guaranteed. It is recommended that the successful applicate apply to the Conference Call for Papers to present their work. AIA Conference proposals are typically requested in August/September for a deadline of submission in September and require a minimal amount of information to submit. There is time after the submission date to continue project development prior to the AIA Conference session. The only presentation requirement will be to provide two (2) virtual presentations to the AIA Large Firm Roundtable (LFRT) in October 2023 and April 2024.

What if I don't have funding to attend the AIA Conference on Architecture? Should this be built into my budget?
Participating in the AIA Conference on Architecture is not a requirement of the grant. Do not include conference fees and travel logistics into your budget breakdown. If a conference proposal is accepted, the standard speaker benefits will be offered.

Please email yaf@aia.org with any additional questions.