

CENTER FOR CREATIVE CONSERVATION

Call for proposals to support project Incubators

Timeline

- October 3, 2016: Announce call for proposals
- November 10, 2016: Letters of inquiry (LOI) due
- November 21, 2016: Decisions for LOIs announced
- January 9, 2017: Full proposals due
- January 31, 2017: Final decisions announced
- April 2017 - April 2018: Incubators in action

Our Mission

The mission of the Center for Creative Conservation (C3, <https://conservation.uw.edu/>) is to develop and promote innovative solutions to complex environmental problems by fostering collaborations across broadly diverse disciplines and sectors. Our efforts support the resiliency and sustainability of our world, encompassing biological and cultural diversity, social and ecological integrity, and matters of equity and justice. We serve individuals and groups seeking innovative ways to advance conservation and sustainability, and university researchers seeking transdisciplinary research opportunities. By *transdisciplinary*, we mean crossing disciplinary, sectoral, and other boundaries toward novel and integrated ideas, methods, and applications. Transdisciplinary research and action authentically engages different modes of knowing, from outside of a single discipline, on equal footing.

Project Incubators

C3 invites proposals for transdisciplinary project Incubators on any cross-cutting topic related to conservation and sustainability from groups of practitioners and University of Washington (UW) researchers. *Project Incubators* convene interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral teams in a series of start-up meetings to encourage effective and creative conservation problem solving. Incubators help teams build effective working relationships, further conceptualize project ideas, develop plans for implementation, and seek additional funds to support long-term collaboration.

To support project Incubators, C3:

- organizes, hosts and facilitates up to 4 meetings per Incubator at UW, Seattle, Washington, offering state-of-the-art conference rooms, collaboration tools, and technology
- provides an introduction to transdisciplinary skills, including best practices in interdisciplinary collaboration and partnering, at the first meeting
- supports the computing and networking needs of the project team during and between meetings
- helps identify additional project funding sources and develop funding proposals
- provides content expertise when possible

Eligibility

Researchers, practitioners, artists, and other professionals of any nationality affiliated with an academic, governmental, tribal, or not-for-profit institution may submit an Incubator proposal. Individuals operating independently are also eligible to apply. Representatives from the private or business sector may submit a proposal if willing to fully fund the project Incubator if selected. Individuals from private sector institutions are eligible to be a participant of an Incubator.

Funding

C3 will host 1-2 Incubators, each consisting of 2-4 meetings over the course of one year commencing in April 2017. C3 Incubators are expected to meet at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. Funding for US\$10,000 is available to support travel (flight or mileage), accommodation and per diem expenses for each Incubator. Incubator budget requests should not exceed US\$10,000, unless the applicants secure additional funds to extend the duration or scope of the Incubator (encouraged but not required). Working group costs may vary depending on group size, number of participants, number of meetings, and meeting duration. For example, this level of funding is generally adequate to support a working group of: 10 individuals (9 local, 1 regional) meeting for 2 days for a total of 4 times; or 10 individuals (7 local, 3 regional) meeting for 4 days for a total of 2 times. Proposals may involve activities with partial support from other institutions or agencies, and co-funding is welcomed.

Proposal Guidelines

We encourage those interested in this opportunity to discuss their ideas with C3 staff prior to developing their proposal to ensure it aligns with the goals of the Center. Please email c3uw@uw.edu (no phone calls).

Successful Incubator proposals:

1. address a complex conservation or sustainability challenge (broadly defined)
2. address relationships among the biophysical and social dimensions of this challenge
3. produce new and integrated knowledge, tools, insight, and/or action
4. engage two or more broadly diverse fields (e.g., humanities, sciences, arts, medicine, engineering, law, policy, communications, etc.)
5. produce at least one substantial product that is directly connected to implementation (e.g., initiative, campaign, research agenda, submitted proposal, scientific publication, etc.)

Successful project teams:

1. consist of 8-12 people, preferably from the Puget Sound region. Project teams can add more distant collaborators within the limits of the maximum funding (see Funding section above). The project's geographic scope is not restricted.
2. involve non-UW partners and UW faculty or staff (the additional involvement of UW graduate students is strongly encouraged)

3. involve members from 2 or more broadly diverse sectors (e.g., academia, government, Tribes, business, non-profit, industry, community groups) with diverse expertise (e.g. research, arts, culinary, technological, agricultural, policy, design, financial, medical, religious, etc.)
4. demonstrate clear synergistic and reciprocal benefits from these collaborative relationships. Partnerships can take various forms and must be clearly articulated.

Instructions for Letters of Inquiry

- Letters of inquiry should include a 2-page Incubator description that:
 - clearly describes the challenge being addressed and explains its social and environmental significance
 - articulates how the challenge can best be addressed by a transdisciplinary approach and the C3 Incubator model
 - demonstrates how the proposed topic meets C3's overall vision, and specifically its goal to encourage innovation and risk-taking in conservation (see C3 website for more details)
 - addresses how the proposed Incubator and project team meet the expectations for success listed above
- Projects should be led by a non-UW partner(s) and developed in collaboration with a UW faculty or staff member(s), as project co-leaders
- In addition to the 2-page letter of inquiry, please include:
 - a list of proposed (tentative) team members with their positions and affiliations (not all team members need to be identified)
 - a 2-page CV or resume of each co-leader
- No budget or additional materials are needed or will be considered at the LOI stage

Submission Instructions

LOIs should be submitted as single document (PDF file only), minimum 10-point font, formatted to standard letter size with graphics embedded directly in the document. Send the LOI as an email attachment to c3uw@uw.edu. Deadline is November 10, 2016.

Letters of Inquiry Review

C3 staff (<https://conservation.uw.edu/people/>) will review letters of inquiry and invite competitive teams to submit a full proposal. The letters are evaluated for their transdisciplinary innovation, alignment with the C3 mission, and likelihood of advancing conservation and sustainability goals. See "*Successful Incubator proposals*" above for additional evaluation criteria. We will work with the co-leaders of successful letters to refine project ideas and identify additional collaborators as needed, toward developing a competitive full proposal.

Instructions for Full Proposals

- Full proposals will only be accepted from project teams who are extended an invitation (based on a successful LOI) from C3. Unsolicited full proposals will not be reviewed.

- Full proposals should consist of a 5-page description of the Incubator project that further details how it meets the expectations outlined above, plus includes (visuals are welcome):
 - a. anticipated challenges of collaboration and ideas for how to overcome them
 - b. initial ideas for how to integrate the diverse goals, theories, methods, and/or data that are brought together by a diverse team
 - c. projected tangible and intangible outcomes of the Incubator
- Full proposals should additionally include (no more than 1 page each):
 - a. bibliographic references
 - b. a list of confirmed project team members, with positions, affiliations, and expected roles in the project (use the template provided)
 - c. letters of support from all partnering entities
- A complete budget is required using the template available here (download)
- Optional (1 page):
 - a. commitment of additional funds to extend the Incubator’s duration or scope (e.g., with additional meetings or participants, etc.)

Submission Instructions

Full proposals should be submitted as single document (PDF file only), minimum 10-point font, formatted to standard letter size with graphics embedded directly in the document. Send the proposal as an email attachment to c3uw@uw.edu. Deadline is January 9, 2017.

Full Proposal Evaluation

The C3 steering committee (<https://conservation.uw.edu/people/>) will evaluate and recommend proposals for their transdisciplinary innovation, alignment with the C3 mission, and likelihood of advancing conservation and sustainability goals. See “*Successful Incubator proposals*” above for additional evaluation criteria. C3 staff will make final decisions on which proposals to support. Late or incomplete submissions (both letters of inquiry and full proposals) will be returned without review. Required reporting of funded Incubators will include a description of all tangible and intangible outcomes.

Got questions?

Please email c3uw@uw.edu.