

University of Maine Arts Initiative (UMAI) Economic Development Through the Arts Call for Proposals

DESCRIPTION:

The University of Maine Arts Initiative (UMAI) is pleased to announce a competitive seed grant program to create and enhance collaborations across the arts and STEM disciplines that contribute to development priorities set forth by the Maine Economic Improvement Fund (MEIF).

The UMAI was launched in 2021 by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School (OVPRDGS), and is a collaborative of faculty, administrators, staff, and students committed to the principle that the arts play an integral role in public research institutions. The University of Maine Arts Initiative's mission is to "*advance the integral role of the arts in enriching the lives of individuals and communities through the creation, experience, research, and enjoyment of the arts.*" We seek to increase resources and support for the arts in order to reinforce their significance and enhance their visibility on campus and beyond. **This specific call for proposals, in line with the objectives of MEIF, seeks to enhance strategic collaborations across the arts and STEM disciplines in support of economic development in Maine.**

The MEIF represents the ongoing commitment between the state, the private sector and our public universities, working together to advance research and economic development for the benefit of all Maine people. These funds provided through state appropriation are dollars specifically designated to support university-based research, development and commercialization in the state's legislatively designated **seven strategic technology areas:**

- Advanced Technologies for Forestry and Agriculture
- Aquaculture and Marine Sciences
- Biotechnology
- Composites and Advanced Materials Technologies
- Environmental Technologies
- Information Technologies
- Precision Manufacturing

"UMAI Economic Development Through the Arts" grants will encourage innovative and interdisciplinary collaborations that seek to build a diverse, inclusive, sustainable, and equitable community of art researchers, practitioners, supporters, and promoters that contribute to MEIF priorities. Projects can be curriculum-based, public-facing,

community-oriented or campus-specific, and are intended to fulfill the mission of the University of Maine Arts Initiative while linking to at least one MEIF strategic technology sector.

The purpose of this seed grant is to focus on collaborative, innovative, pilot studies, with the clear intention of using this pilot work to encourage future external proposals. Faculty and professional staff are invited to submit proposals in accordance with the guidelines and timeline described in this program announcement. Each proposal must address a challenge, question, or need associated **with at least one of the MEIF strategic technology sectors**.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Grant Amount: A limited number of twelve-month projects with budgets up to \$35,000 will be selected, and are intended to support new and enhance existing collaborations, with priority given to applicants from Arts-oriented units in collaboration with colleagues from STEM units. There is **no** matching requirement for this grant program. Allowable expenses include, but are not limited to: supplies and materials, rental fees for campus facilities at UMaine and UMM, technology and/or software licensing, equipment, student support (excluding tuition), summer salary, travel, honoraria, and per diems. Funding may be used for receptions directly integral to the project, but cost not to exceed \$250.

Full-time University of Maine employees are not eligible for additional compensation for project activities, with the exception of summer salary for faculty or staff who do not have fiscal-year appointments. Course buyouts or release time for University of Maine faculty and employees are also not allowable expenses.

What is a Project? These projects are expected to be transformative, innovative and collaborative across multiple disciplines. For example, project grants should lead to future proposals to Federal and State agencies, foundations, and other external funding sources for future support of both existing and pilot initiatives. Please note:

- All University of Maine Arts Initiative Grants must be in accordance with the University of Maine System's current guidance regarding COVID-19 and UMS-sponsored events, travel, research, and other activities. [Such guidance can be found here.](#)
- All University of Maine Arts Initiative Grants are awarded in compliance with the University of Maine System Board of Trustees Policy Manual, [Section 209: "Intellectual Property"](#). Specifically, acceptance of an Award constitutes agreement and acceptance of all definitions and policies described in the

["University of Maine System Statement of Policy Governing Patents and Copyrights"](#).

PROGRAM SUBMISSION AND CONTENTS

Applicants should include the following in their application package, submitted as separate files through the [InfoReady](#) portal:

1. Cover page: Includes project title, list of investigators and affiliations
2. Project Abstract: Not to exceed 150 words. The MEIF strategic technology sector should be listed.
3. Project Narrative: A 2-page description of the proposed work, including how it will encourage further collaborations. Please use 1" margins, single-spacing, and a legible font not smaller than 11pt.
4. Project Impact: not to exceed 500 words, addressing anticipated audience, clear timelines for project outcomes and deliverables, project/collaboration sustainability, extramural funding programs to pursue and next steps.
5. Project Budget Table and 1-page Budget Explanation (All funds must be expended by May 31, 2023).
6. Project Participants: Please provide a 2-page resume from each project participant and describe their role(s) in the project

Applicants may submit up to three (3) letters of support or collaboration, but these are not required.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed and ranked by members of the UMAI Steering Committee or designees based on the criteria described below. The committee will provide recommendations to the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School (VPRDGS), who will make the final funding decisions.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria: the potential of the project to provide, through coordinated and synergistic collaborations, innovative and high-impact programs and creative activities bringing together a broad spectrum of the arts and STEM disciplines to support economic development and to improve the quality of life and enhance the wellbeing of the people of Maine and beyond. Specific review criteria are included in the evaluation rubric, accessible on the competition page.

TIMELINE

- Application deadline: Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on April 1st, 2022. Late applications will not be accepted or reviewed. Proposals must be submitted

via the UMaine InfoReady Portal (linked [here](#) and accessible at <https://umaine.infoready4.com/>).

- Review of applications: The review committee will be assembled to review proposals, and evaluations will begin in mid/late April. Final funding decisions will be made by the VPRDGS, and feedback will be communicated to each applicant by early May. All project activities must be completed by May 31, 2023.

RESOURCES

Requests for technical assistance with submitting can be directed to Saul Allen, Office of Research Development (saul.allen@maine.edu), and conceptual assistance to (george.kinghorn@maine.edu). Those who have not applied through InfoReady previously will need to create an account in InfoReady prior to submitting their application.