



## SIA Seed Grants

---

As part of the Mellon-funded Scholarship in Action initiative, SIA Seed Grants offer opportunities for Holy Cross faculty from humanities and humanistic disciplines to embark on a community-based research project in Worcester. Since the inception of Seed Grants in 2019, SIA has awarded around a dozen projects in the city, with several of them leading to long term SIA research projects. Although these \$2000 grants do not require faculty to develop a long-term research project, the expectation is that these grants will develop community-based and Worcester-centered teaching and research capacities for faculty.

What SIA Seed Grants do is to help faculty jumpstart community-based research projects by providing them with resources that can either develop deeper relationships with community partners with whom they share overlapping interests. SIA Seed Grants also can provide faculty with funds to learn new research methods or technical skills to carry out research projects with the city—particularly if some of this leg work needs to be done at a distance. Since community-engaged research often serves multiple audiences and communicates knowledge to broader constituencies in varied formats, researchers often have to learn how to share this knowledge through platforms with which they may be less familiar (examples may include digital scholarship or public exhibits). In recognition of these possible exigencies, SIA Seed Grants offer opportunities for Holy Cross faculty to develop a community-engaged research project in its preliminary stages, to build a rapport with community partners, and to acquire skills needed to undertake community-engaged research.

### Eligibility:

A limited number of \$2000 grants will be awarded this fall to faculty from humanities disciplines and the humanistic social sciences. Tenured/tenure-track faculty and other faculty on multi-year appointments are eligible. Larger grants may be offered to departments embarking upon departmental initiatives. Awards may provide funds to coordinate with community partners, to support emerging pedagogical goals related to the larger community-based research project, to pursue relevant professional development, to consult with a colleague, to visit site similar community-engaged projects in other cities, or to procure equipment and other resources needed for the project. These supplementary funds may also be used to support student work related to the faculty member's Worcester-based research (whether to offset costs of the research associate or summer research programs). SIA Seed Grant recipients will have opportunities to share their project plans with each other as well as other interested audiences. Grant recipients will also submit a report detailing how the funds were used and how they supported the development of community-engaged research and a potential SIA grant proposal.

### Procedures for Application:

Develop a proposal that includes:

- a) Narrative: The narrative (1250 word maximum) should include a description of the proposed project and its potential significance (e.g., for the field, the community partner, the wider community, or for the applicant's own research trajectory). The applicant should also explain what expertise the applicant already has in the field or project and what strides the applicant has made in developing the project (perhaps through a course, similar research in another region, with the partner [naming individuals where appropriate], or in the research itself). It should be clear what the applicant intends to accomplish through the grant's award. The narrative should also include a description of the items in the proposed budget and a description of how these items support the proposed project.
- b) Budget: The budget should contain an itemized list of proposed expenditures, such as travel, course/conference fees, consultation costs, supply/equipment costs. No more than half of grant may be dedicated to faculty summer stipends.
- c) Updated CV.

### Selection:

SIA Seed Grant proposals will be evaluated by an SIA selection committee consisting of representatives from the J.D. Power Center with final approval from the Dean's Office. Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- the persuasiveness of how the preliminary work will enhance the development of a community-based research project in Worcester.
- an explanation of how some of this work could be pursued (whether by faculty or students) if current protocols of physical distancing remain in place.
- an understanding of the components needed to pursue engaged scholarship in the city.
- the degree to which this grant will have an impact upon the faculty member's teaching and scholarship.
- the likelihood that this pilot grant will lead to the development of Worcester-based project as well as an SIA grant proposal.
- a reasoned explanation of potential budget items to carry out the community-based research project.

Please upload Seed Grant proposals to the **Faculty Support Portal**. Applications will be due **April 19, 2023**. **Questions about the application process should be directed to Mary Conley, the Director of the Scholarship in Action initiative, at [mconley@holycross.edu](mailto:mconley@holycross.edu).**