Announcement of Competition
Social Innovation Faculty Research Grants

Proposals Due: October 7, 2015

This Request for Proposals (RFP) announces a faculty research grant competition to fund social innovation research that improves the quality of life for residents of low-income, urban communities. Funding is available beginning January 1, 2016.

A limited number of one-year grants will be made. Grants will not normally exceed **$25,000**, however, larger grants will be considered. Funds must be expended on or before December 31, 2016. Approximately, $200,000 is available.

BACKGROUND
The Sol Price Center for Social Innovation was established at the University of Southern California in 2011 by a generous gift from Price Philanthropies to name and endow the Sol Price School of Public Policy. The gift honors the life and legacy of the late Sol Price, Price Club founder and business entrepreneur who was committed to addressing social justice and poverty.

Since 1993, Price Philanthropies has invested more than $200 million in a redevelopment effort to improve City Heights San Diego for its current residents. The initiative employs a holistic, place-based approach, addressing the principal factors that contribute to urban poverty.

In recognition of that commitment, the gift also created the USC Sol Price Center for Social Innovation. The Price Center seeks to become the leading academic institution in the field of social innovation by developing ideas, practices, and leaders to enhance the quality of life for people in low-income urban communities worldwide.

FOCUS AND ELIGIBILITY
USC tenure-track and full time faculty may apply. The RFP invites applications to undertake research on solutions to challenges facing low-income urban communities.

Successful applicants may be eligible for competitions in later years, contingent upon satisfactory completion of the current project. However, each separate application should encompass a well-defined, self-contained program of research.

FUNDING GUIDELINES AND RESTRICTIONS

Eligible expenditures include:

- Directly related travel and accommodation
- Faculty summer stipend (subject to the University's 33.5% fringe benefit charge and standard withholdings). Requests for release time during the academic year must be approved by the relevant dean and be justified in terms of the proposed research objective. The request and approval for course release should be part of the application packet.
- Faculty with 12-month appointments may charge their grant-related effort with approval of their dean.
- Salary support for Graduate Research Assistants and other student wages including tuition.
- Collection and purchase of archival materials
- Ethnographic and survey research (including software, data sets, etc.)
- Materials and supplies

Ineligible expenses include:

- Large equipment expenditures (greater than $750)
- Expenditures supplementing or offsetting direct or indirect costs of related projects
- Indirect costs

Note that conservative and cost-effective budgets are strongly encouraged. Funding for students is encouraged in all projects.

ASSESSMENT

A faculty panel will review proposals according to a range of criteria including:

- Consistency with the Sol Price Center for Social Innovation RFP and mission
- Innovation and research significance
- Likelihood of continued external funding
- Qualifications to perform work within the time frame specified
- Reasonableness of budget and cost-effectiveness

Special consideration will be given to projects that include City Heights as a study area (see Appendix A). Due to limited resources, not all proposals can be funded, and some may be funded for less than the requested amount.

The Price Center oversight board will make final project selections, taking into account referee reports, programmatic priorities and prior project performance. Oversight board members may submit proposals, but are not allowed to deliberate and vote on their proposals.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Successful applicants will be appointed as FELLOWS of the Sol Price Center for Social Innovation for the duration of their projects.

The principal investigator will be responsible for the successful execution and timely completion of the proposed research. Awardees are responsible to submit:

1) A policy brief in the form of a publishable four-page paper accessible to a general public readership that may be included in the Center's publication series.
2) An academic working paper.
3) A final report providing a summary of project results as well as publications, external funding leveraged or applied for, and presentations based on the research.
4) One presentation of research at a seminar or conference organized by the Price Center.

Any publication or creative endeavor arising from work supported by the Price Center should acknowledge support from the USC Sol Price Center for Social Innovation. Please submit copies of publications to the contact person below.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Proposals should be succinct and clearly written. Proposals are limited to no more than 7 pages, not including abbreviated CVs and dean's course release approval, if appropriate. Each proposal must include the following elements:

1. Cover Page (use attached cover sheet)
2. An abstract of up to 100 words and a proposal narrative not to exceed four-pages of single-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman typescript with one-inch margins.
3. Detailed budget (use attached Budget Form)
4. General timetable of work to be performed
5. A two-page NSF bio-sketch that includes professional appointments, degrees awarded, as well as, key related publications and grants for PI and co-PIs.

The entire application package should be emailed to the contact person whose address is given below.

DEADLINES

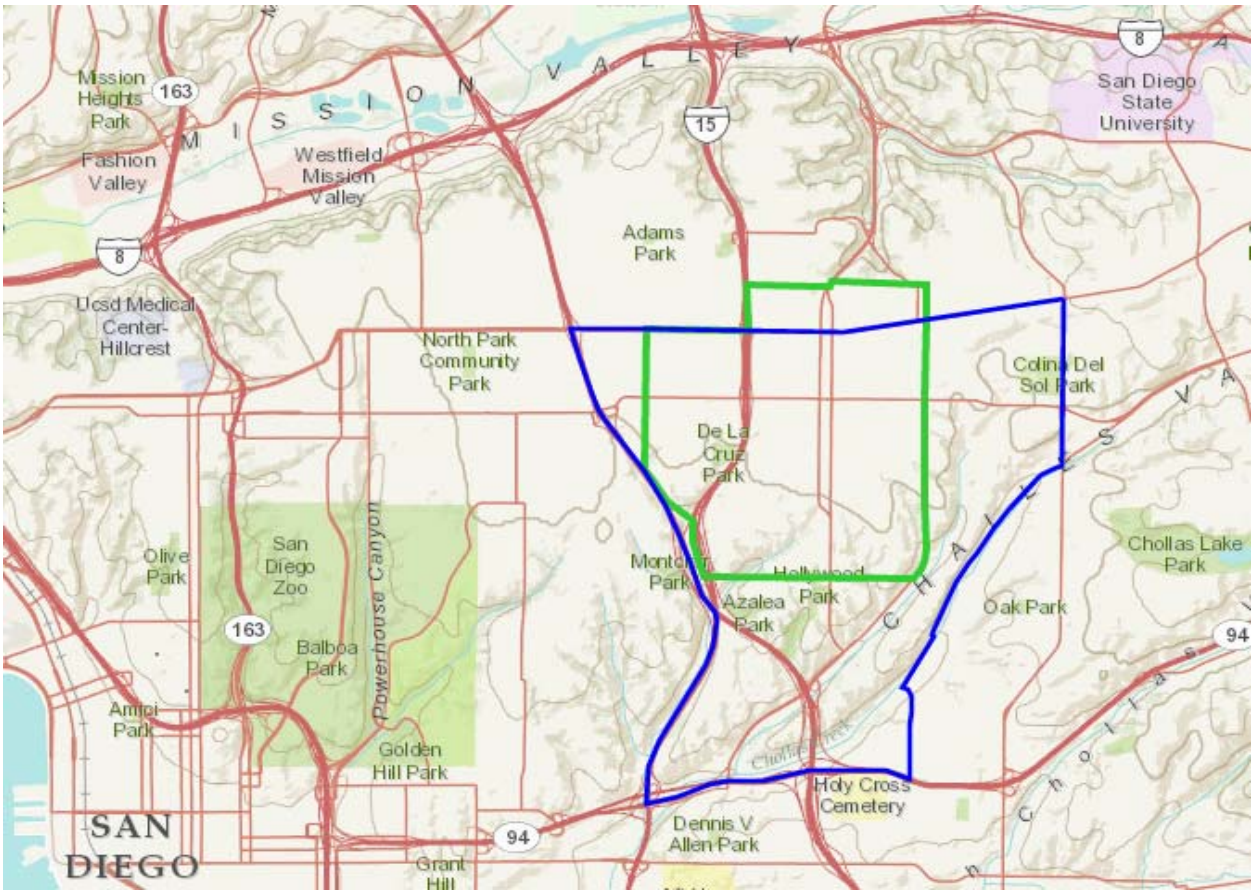
October 7, 2015	Proposals Due
November 25, 2015	Announce Decisions
January 1, 2016	Funds available
December 31, 2016	Deadline for expenditure of grant funds
January 31, 2017	Deadline for receipt of final report

CONTACT PERSON

Inquiries may be directed to Richard Parks, executive director, at (213) 740-8181 or richard@usc.edu.

Appendix A: City Heights

City Heights is a vibrant urban community east of downtown San Diego consisting of 16 defined neighborhoods. Approximately 74,000 people live in a 4 square mile area, making it the most dense community in the San Diego region. A significant number (42.4%) of residents are foreign born with a majority migrating from Latin America, Asia and Africa. Only 63% of adults have a high school diploma, 33% are not English fluent, and 27% live in poverty.



City Heights Boundaries. Blue: City Heights Community Planning Area. Green: Primary Focus Area

In 1994 Sol Price became interested in City Heights as a result of a newspaper article about a Vons grocery store closing in the community. At the time City Heights had the highest crime rate in San Diego County, gang activity and drug dealing were rampant, housing was substandard and public services were lacking. Sol and former City Councilman William Jones had been working together to open a retail store in an inner city neighborhood in San Diego. Believing that the Vons store might be a good site, they soon learned that the City of San Diego had already secured the site for a new police substation, but didn't have financing in place. Sol Price made an agreement with San Diego City Manager Jack McGrory whereby Sol would loan the City the money for the building construction if the City would agree to repay the loan in a timely manner and design into the building a gymnasium for police employees and the public to use, public meeting rooms and windows on the street side of the substation. The purpose of these facility additions was to make the substation as community friendly as possible. The City agreed and the project was completed less than two years later.

While working on the development of the police substation, Sol and William decided that Sol would focus on non-profit work in City Heights while William would focus on for profit real estate development. The "City Heights Initiative" was conceived as a holistic approach to the revitalization of an urban community. The Initiative focuses on improving housing, retail, healthcare, education, social services, public safety, job opportunities, and other quality of life issues and services.

Cover Page

Title: _____

Principal Investigator: _____

School/Department: _____

Mail Code and Room Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Co-Principal Investigator: _____

School/Department: _____

Amount requested (total): _____

Research Area: _____

_____

Community Benefit:
Explain how the proposed research will benefit residents of low-income, urban communities? _____

_____

_____

_____

Budget Form

Category	**Budget ($)**
Faculty Salary	_____
Faculty Salary[1]	_____
Student Support	_____
Type (hourly or award) _____	
Student Support	_____
Type (hourly or award) _____	
Fringe Benefits:	_____
Conference Travel	_____
Conference Name/Date _____	
Other Travel	_____
Materials and Supplies	_____
Other Direct Expenses (itemize)	
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED	**$** _____

Budget Narrative:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

[1] Use additional faculty and student lines if there is more than one faculty or student.

Proposal Evaluation Form

(Evaluators' scoring form provided for information only)

Proposal Title:

Area:

Principal Investigator:
Co-investigator:

Referee Number:

Evaluation Criteria: Please rate proposals in each of the categories below, using the following rating scale:

1 = Well below expectations
2 = Below expectations
3 = Meets expectations
4 = Exceeds expectations
5 = Well above expectations

CATEGORY	RATING
1. Consistency with the Sol Price Center for Social Innovation RFP and mission	
2. Innovation and research significance	
3. Likelihood of continued external funding	
4. Qualifications to perform work	
5. Reasonableness of budget and cost-effectiveness	
6. Overall Rating	

Referee's Funding Recommendation:

☐ Fund as Submitted

☐ Fund with Modifications (explain on second page)

☐ Do Not Fund (explain on second page)

Referees Comments (add additional pages as needed):