Bicentennial Student Initiative Grant Program
Request for Proposals

I. Background

For generations, University of Michigan students have not only studied, lived, and grown at the University, they have also shaped it, and the larger society, in significant ways. Just a few examples:

- In 1841, the original 6 college students joined 2 faculty in Ann Arbor in pioneering a fledgling institution that has become the wonderful University we know today.
- In the 1870s, student rebellion against mandatory chapel services marked the beginning of a transformation in the relationship of students to their University — one in which students were increasingly independent in determining their course of education and extracurricular activity.
- In the 1870s and 1880s, students began to introduce competitive sports — first baseball, later football — into the life of the University.
- In the early 1900s, Michigan students — over the objections of the administration — brought some of the most controversial figures in America to speak in Ann Arbor, helping lead the way in developing the University’s commitment to free speech that we cherish today.
- In the 1960s, Michigan students and faculty together created the first teach-in, and in 1970, Michigan students led in the creation of Earth Day and held the first, monumentally successful, Earth Day Teach-In.
- In the early 1970s, increased pressure from Michigan students and the community led to the opening of the Human Sexuality Office, now known as the Spectrum Center, the first of its kind at an institution of higher learning.
- In the 1970s and 1980s Black Action Movements, student activism re-focused the University on issues of social justice and diversity and led to expansion of the curriculum along these lines.
- At UM-Flint, extracurricular theatre groups led to the development of formal course offerings with professional staff and the opening of a campus auditorium.
- In 2013, UM-Dearborn student veterans and dependents of veterans worked with the Office of Registration and Records to create a Veteran Affairs outreach program providing highly qualified, supportive, and specific aid to student veterans during their transition from military life.
- In recent years, student-organized projects such as the Solar Car, UM-Dearborn Racing, MIHacks, and MUSICMatters have extended the meaning and significance of extracurricular and engaged learning.
- The recent increase of student-led entrepreneurial activities such as MPowered’s 1,000 pitches, TEDxUM, and OptiMize have lead to the creation of an entrepreneurial curriculum that in 2015 will include an available minor.
II. Description and Goals

With the Bicentennial Student Grant program, we want to empower students to celebrate and build on this legacy. Three to five grants ranging from $10,000 to $20,000 will be awarded to project teams with proposals that best address one or more of the following:

1. Celebrate and promote understanding of student life at Michigan over the decades and of student contributions to making Michigan “Michigan” — including obstacles that students had to overcome.
2. Showcase the power and impact of a Michigan education and the Michigan student experience.
3. Promote a current transformation the University could undertake to significantly enhance students’ education, including realistic proposals for implementation.
4. Promote a current transformation the University could undertake to significantly enhance the student experience at Michigan, including realistic proposals for implementation.
5. Connect student experience at Michigan to the larger society and world in a new way.

III. Important Dates

10/23/2015 – Registration deadline for Student Grant Interest Workshop – REQUIRED
10/27/2015 – Bicentennial Student Initiative Interest Workshop – REQUIRED
02/15/2016 – Deadline for proposal submissions
04/04/2016 – Announcement of grant recipients
10/27/2017 – Bicentennial Third Century Expo

IV. Eligibility

The Bicentennial Student Grant program is open to:

- All recognized sponsored student organizations (SSOs) and voluntary student organizations (VSOs) on all University campuses.
- Student teams that come together for the purpose of submitting a proposal. Please note, however, that before an award can be made, the team must obtain SSO or VSO status.

All proposals must be submitted by two or more student groups in collaboration.
V. Project Requirements

In addition to addressing one or more of the questions above, proposals also must meet the following criteria:

1. Advance the overall mission of the Bicentennial in a unique way that will be especially engaging and exciting to students. (Attachment 1) The proposal must reflect a broad perspective on the University, not simply the particular interests of a student organization.
2. Foster collaboration across the University. Only proposals submitted by teams made up of two or more SSO/VSOs working collaboratively will be considered. The more collaborative and the more unique the collaboration, the more consideration the proposal will receive. Student teams not currently affiliated with a SSO or VSO must obtain SSO or VSO status before an award can be made.
3. Demonstrate a direct impact on University students.
4. Foster student engagement in the University and in the Bicentennial itself.
5. Impact and make a lasting contribution to the University of Michigan community.

VI. Bicentennial Student Grant Interest Workshop

The Bicentennial Student Grant Interest Workshop serves three purposes:

1. To provide information to groups about the Bicentennial Student Grant Program.
2. To answer questions about the Bicentennial Student Grant Program.
3. To provide an opportunity for groups to identify potential partners with similar interests.

Groups interested in potentially submitting a proposal MUST participate in the Bicentennial Student Grant Interest workshop.

The Bicentennial Student Grant Interest Workshop will be held October 27th, 2015 from 5pm-7pm in Space 2435 of North Quad on the Ann Arbor campus. This workshop will be conducted as a videoconference with both the Flint and Dearborn campuses. It is not required for groups to have pre-identified a partner group prior to participating in the workshop. It is not required for groups to have pre-identified a topic of interest prior to participating in the workshop. A list of interested groups and their topics in consideration and/or areas of expertise will be made available to all participants after the workshop has been held.

Interested groups must register for the workshop by sending an email to bmoreno@umich.edu with the following information:

1. Name of SSO/VSO(s)
2. Names of members attending workshop
3. Campus where you'll be attending the workshop

The last day to register for the workshop is 10/23/2015.
VII. Proposal Requirements

Proposal submissions must include the following information to be considered:

1. Official names of student organizations collaborating on the project. At least two SSO/VSOs must work collaboratively to be considered. Higher consideration will be given to proposals that show a greater degree of cross-discipline/cross-organizational collaboration.
2. Name of at least one lead contact from each organization contributing to the project.
3. Description of the relationship between the organizations submitting the project. Include information about any previous project groups have worked on together.
4. Description of the project and how it will address one or more of the goals stated in section II, above, and meets the requirements listed in section IV, above, especially showing how it will be relevant and engaging for a broad range of students.
5. Description of the role each organization will play in the project.
6. Proposed timeline for project planning and implementation, with a justification of the project's feasibility and the ability of the proposers to implement it.
   a. Due to the length of this project, please include a timeline of leadership change for each organization, how the leadership turnover might impact the project, and this will be addressed.
7. Proposed itemized budget with an estimated full cost of the project including any amount of funds already secured or additional funds still needed (if applicable).

VIII. How Funds May be Used

An itemized budget with an estimated full cost of the project including any amount of funds already secured must be included with the proposal. If funds are being secured from multiple sources it should be indicated what items within the budget are to be covered by this grant.

Fundable activities
1. Supplies and materials directly related to the project
2. Rental costs for meeting space, event space, equipment, etc.
3. Banners and signage
4. Travel to conferences/events where material from the project will be presented
5. Payment to outside consultants for work on the project
6. Performance services
7. Food for activities and events (with approval)

Non-fundable activities include:
1. Political or religious activities
2. Payments to team members for time worked on the project
3. Illegal activity
4. For-Profit activities
5. Alcohol and tobacco products
6. Activities that constitute the regular daily/monthly/yearly activities of the SSO/VSO
7. Fundraising for the student organizations
8. Retroactive events/activities
9. Travel to conferences that do not involve presentation of materials related to this project
10. Travel to and from meetings
11. Membership dues

All spending must follow University of Michigan Standard Practice guidelines.

IX. Process: proposal submission, first review and selection, presentation

Proposals should be submitted through a link on the resources tab of the Bicentennial website, bicentennial.umich.edu/resources.

Following the Bicentennial Student Initiative Interest workshop, submissions will be accepted until 02/15/2016.

Proposals will be reviewed by the Student Initiative Grant Committee, which will be composed of students with faculty and administrative support.

The committee will select a semi-final set of proposals and will ask the proposing organizations to make presentations to the committee, to discuss the proposal in greater depth.

Following presentations, the committee will select 3 to 5 proposals for funding. Decisions will be based in part on how compelling the proposals are, based on the goals and criteria given above, as well as on how well the overall mix of awards will foster broad student engagement in the Bicentennial. The committee will announce grant recipients not later than 04/04/2016.

X. Post-Award Requirements

Groups with selected proposals will be expected to do the following:
1. Provide a progress report to the Bicentennial Office including an update of funds spent every 2 months.
2. Present their project, in some form, as part of the Bicentennial Third Century Expo taking place October 27, 2017.
3. Provide a summary report and finalized budget (any unused funds must be returned) to the Bicentennial Office no later than December 1, 2017.

Please contact UMBicentennial@umich.edu with any questions.

Additional information about the University of Michigan Bicentennial can be found at www.bicentennial.umich.edu.
Attachment 1: Bicentennial Mission

The mission of the Bicentennial is to:

1. Celebrate the University’s intellectual and academic creativity as we launch our third century.

2. Rediscover the University's contributions to the intellectual life of the state, nation, and world; strengthen our traditions; and connect current and future generations to U-M’s heritage.

3. Exemplify the University’s continuing leadership and innovation in higher education.

4. Explore with full transparency tensions the University faced in the past in order to better understand current tensions in higher education and society.

5. Celebrate contributions made to society by our current and former students.

6. Engage all University constituencies and strengthen our connections in the community, the state, the nation, and the world.

7. Express and exemplify core values: intellectual leadership and innovation, publicness, academic freedom and integrity, diversity, and commitment to the combined mission of education, research, and service.