



## Student Government Board

### Diversity and Inclusion Collaboration Grant

#### **Goal:**

The purpose of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee's collaboration grant is to promote interaction and discourse among student organizations. The grant helps lift financial burdens a student organization may bear when planning their programs, motivating them to focus on program quality and efficacy. This grant is aimed towards groups who normally do not collaborate with each other, or hold distinctly different perspectives. Grant programs should provide spaces for civil discourse about differences or areas of intersection.

#### **Grant:**

Student organizations are permitted to request up to \$500 for their event. Any amount exceeding \$500 will be handled on a case-by-case basis. An itemized list will be provided on the form so organizations can fill in items they wish to allocate funds for and will be discussed in detail through an interview.

#### **How to Apply:**

Student organizations interested in applying for the grant must fill out the online form and submit a *joint* statement of grant purpose. That is, all participating organizations need only submit one application. The submitting organization is expected to *equally represent the interests of all participating organizations*. Please address the following questions in the statement:

- How are the topics explored in this event critical to diversity and inclusion on campus?
- How does this event promote the platform of all participating organizations?
- How will leaders facilitate discussion among all organizations?
- What is the reasoning behind the collaboration of these specific groups?
- How do leaders plan to market this event?
- How do leaders think this event can influence future programming within their organizations and on campus overall?

#### **Format:**

- Length is limited to a maximum of one single-spaced page.
- Use 1-inch margins and Times New Roman 12-point font.
- Please use PDF format when uploading documents.
- At the left top of the page include:
  - Line 1: Statement of Grant Purpose
  - Line 2: Student organization name 1, Student organization name 2, etc.

#### **Timeline:**

Student organizations must submit their grant proposals *at least three weeks* in advance of their scheduled event. Following proposal submissions, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee will reach out to respective leaders of the organization to schedule an interview to discuss the application in detail. A member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee will be present at the program/event to act as a liaison between the DIC and the respective groups. Within a week after the program/event, student organizations must submit a 1-2 paragraph reflection, discussing the impact it had on members of the participating organizations as well as the overall Pitt community.

## **F.A.Q.**

### **What sorts of items are we allowed to purchase with the grant?**

Anything that the organizations deem necessary for the function of the event! It is acceptable to request funds for food, venue rentals, rights to a movie, and the like. The money should be spent wisely and efficiently.

### **How will the grant be administered?**

When the grant is approved, the money will be transferred to the SORC account of the *submitting organization*. Funds cannot be split to multiple SORC accounts. We expect that all participating organizations will assist in financial accountability. Please keep in mind that the [SORC disbursement process](#) can take up to 4 weeks.

### **Who is allowed to receive this grant?**

Only student organizations registered with SORC are permitted to apply for and receive this grant. All varieties of student organizations are encouraged to apply. These include but are not limited to organizations focused in religion, politics, special interest, academics, athletics, gender and sexuality, and/or race and ethnicity.

### **Is the grant associated with Student Government Board's Allocations Committee?**

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee's Collaboration Grant is *not* associated with the funds provided by SGB's Allocations Committee. This is a grant program separate from Allocations; we possess our own review board for grant applications and carry out our own processes.

### **What are some example programs?**

Topics of discussion are endless and we encourage organizations to exercise their creative freedom. An effective program may involve organizations that are polarized on a specific topic but are willing to come together to engage in civil discourse, groups with different special interests finding a way to appreciate both disciplines, or two different cultural or religious groups planning an event that addresses differences or areas of intersection. Some examples are: a STEM organization collaborating with an Arts group, two groups that hold different or opposing religious or political opinions, cultural groups discussing how they intersect on a specific topic or issue, etc. The program should equally promote the platforms of all participating organizations and should include substantial interaction. If the event is a film showing, there should be some sort of panel, group discussion, or integrated discussion break-out groups following the film showing.

### **In what cases could my program be denied funding?**

Reasons why funding for a program may be denied can include but are not limited to:

- The organizations frequently collaborate or exhibit very similar ideology or cultural or academic backgrounds, and have not demonstrated how this program is unique from past collaborations.
- The funds requested do not cover needs related to the program. Ex: buying items for sustained use like Bluetooth speakers, phones, furniture, etc.
- The participating organizations' representatives have not demonstrated how the program will encourage discourse and integration between the participating organizations' membership

### **What are our chances of receiving this grant?**

We are looking for organizations who are sincere about collaboration, executing programs that are rewarding for their members and for the Pitt community. If we can discern this through your application and interview, then you will more than likely receive the grant! If there are concerns with your application, we will workshop the program with you to help give you the best chance of receiving funding.

### **Who can I contact for further questions or concerns?**

For questions directly regarding the grant, please contact Vice Chair Jeff Zeng at [yoz17@pitt.edu](mailto:yoz17@pitt.edu). For questions pertaining to the general Diversity and Inclusion Committee, please contact Chair Tabitha Barnes at [tjb115@pitt.edu](mailto:tjb115@pitt.edu).