



WashU

Frick Initiatives: A Civic Venture Fund

Informational Webinar: Request for Proposals
Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and
Public Policy

September 1, 2026

Apply for Funding

frick.washu.edu/apply-funding

Arts & Sciences

Frick Initiatives



Scope and Mission

The Frick Initiatives invest in ambitious ideas connected to four core pillars: civil discourse, free speech, free and open markets and personal responsibility.

Our focus is on action. We seek promising projects that move ideas beyond discussion and into practice, whether through education, applied research, public engagement, community partnerships or new approaches we have not yet imagined. We welcome thoughtful experimentation and calculated risk, while prioritizing projects with clear goals, measurable outcomes and the potential to grow or inform work beyond their initial investment.

Four Pillars

01 

FREE SPEECH

Supporting open expression, different viewpoints and the exchange of ideas.

02 

FREE & OPEN MARKETS

Exploring entrepreneurship, economic mobility and market-based approaches that create opportunity.

03 

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Encouraging leadership, accountability and contributing to the common good.

04 

CIVIL DISCOURSE

Encouraging meaningful dialogue and constructive conversations across different perspectives.



Pilot Projects

Free Speech Podcast

Chancellor's Lecture: Fireside Chat with John McWhorter

Civil Society Initiative

Summer Philosophy Academy

Free Speech on Campus

Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis

The Longest Table

"Markets and Morality" Acceleration

The PoliSci LEGO Guy

Provost's Initiatives for Undergraduate Education

Enhanced Funding for the Small Business Initiative

Webster Groves Frick Center for Civic Engagement

Youth2Lead

Complicating the Narrative

Diligent Market Intelligence Voting Module



Application Components

Letter of Inquiry

- Optional yet encouraged
- Due 10/2/26
- Send directly to kforinger@wustl.edu
- 3 pages, single-spaced
- Must include:
 - Project summary
 - Team member qualifications
 - General budget request
 - Project relevance to Frick pillars



Application Components

Full Proposal

- Due 11/13/26
- InfoReady platform
 - All non-WashU email users must manually register by emailing me at kforinger@wustl.edu
- Team Info and Qualifications
- Project Abstract
- Project Description
- Budget and Justification
- Supplementary Documents



Application Components

Full Proposal

- **Project Description** (5 single spaced pages):
 - Project Background and Aims
 - Planned Activities and Timeline
 - Team Composition and Roles
 - Sustainability and Scalability of Project
 - Impact and Alignment with the Frick Pillars



Application Components

Budget

- **Allowable costs:**

- Personnel support (staff, students, postdocs, project coordinators)
- Equipment, software, supplies, and project materials
- Participant stipends and honoraria
- Travel directly related to project activities
- Event and meeting expenses
- Evaluation and assessment activities

- **Non-allowable costs:**

- Faculty salary support
- Course releases or teaching buyout
- Indirect costs (overhead)
- General operating expenses
- Construction, renovation, or capital improvements
- Costs not directly related to project as it is proposed



Review Criteria

- Alignment with the Frick Initiatives' Pillars and potential impact
- Feasibility of proposed activities and budget
- Outlook for sustainability and/or scalability



Participation and Reporting

- Tracking the success of each project
- Develop assessment protocol with an initial evaluation meeting
- Participation in community of Frick Initiatives recipients
- Invitation to annual showcase



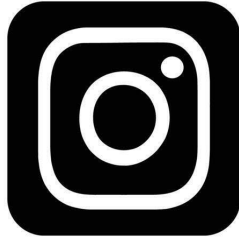
Review Process

- Steering committee composed of academic and community leaders
- Designed to be iterative process
- Encourage you to submit the LOI for tailored feedback
- Final stage reviewer comments



Questions?

Stay connected to the Frick Initiatives and Weidenbaum!



- Email Dr. Kristin Henningfeld (kforinger@wustl.edu) with program questions.
- Director Andrew Reeves
- Associate Director Elizabeth Larson

