



# Stantec Innovation Partnership Grant

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Stantec is proud to serve IDEC as a Premier Partner and to offer the opportunity to work together, as practitioners, educators, and students, to solve problems creatively and improve the quality of life for the communities we serve and inhabit.

At Stantec, we design with community in mind, and that means being on the forefront of research and innovation.

*We are pleased to renew the **Stantec Innovation Partnership Grant** of \$3,000 for 2023. The purpose of this grant is to encourage research partnership between industry and academia.*

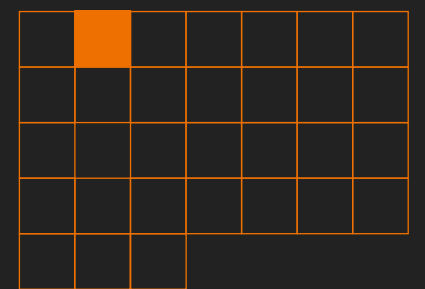
This grant invites a student/academic research team to partner with a Stantec practitioner to explore a question of interest within one of 3 themes listed below, as they pertain to either workplace, healthcare, or educational facilities.

Project submissions will be accepted until



**5:00** PM  
MST

**Tuesday**



**May 2, 2023**

## Research Themes

THEMES ARE LISTED IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE FOR CONSIDERATION.

**1**

### **Design Justice**

Design Justice explores the relationship of design, inclusivity and diversity to uncover structural inequities in the interior environment and the processes by which they are designed. How do we design in such a way that all voices authentically expressed and heard? How do our designs manifest experiences for people to feel safe, included, and equal? What are the opportunities in design that will encourage individuals to thrive and be their best selves? What is the contribution of interior design to a diverse and flourishing society?

**2**

### **Innovation in Technology**

The ways in which we meet, work, move, share, and relax are entwined with digital tools that inform, arrange, measure, display, simulate, suggest, and prompt us through our daily experiences. Interior designers harness these tools every day as we design functional environments for our clients; at the same time, the design solutions themselves must take into account the technological needs of the occupants, even as the rate of change continues to accelerate. What are the implications for interior designers seeking to provide the optimum human experience for a client in this ever-shifting context? What is the appropriate balance between benefits and consequences technology may present – such as the balance between connectedness and respite, convenience and privacy, creative originality and automated simulation?

**3**

### **Resilience**

Human nature seeks growth, change, flexibility and increased strength. Design plays a key role in creating a resilient community with the ability to bounce back stronger from shocks and stresses. In an increasingly volatile environment, how can interior designers offer our clients choices that help them meet their current needs in a way that allows flexibility for the future? What design decisions can provide beauty, functionality, and durability while lowering the environmental impact of our projects? How can we create spaces that foster social resilience, enhance local identity, strengthen community cohesion, and provide refuge from tumultuous events, both climactic and social?

## Stantec / IDEC Research Partnership

Stantec seeks proposals from (1) educator and (1) student (graduate or rising senior undergraduate) from CIDA accredited programs with whom to partner on a research project related to one of the themes described.

A grant of \$3,000 will be awarded to the selected student and educator team. The distribution of funds will occur in phases as the above action items are completed. No indirect (F&A) costs should be included.

The successful grant recipients will work with Stantec interior designers to fulfill their research proposal. The division of labor between Stantec, educator, and student may vary based on the proposal and topic, but the intention is for all three parties to work virtually and collaboratively, providing equal effort and input so as to maximize the value of the three unique perspectives brought to the project. At minimum, the team will:

**1**

**Create an intermediate report sharing their progress.**

**2**

**Submit a proposal to present their project at IDEC's annual North American conference.**

**3**

**Author a whitepaper to share their completed findings.**

*These 3 items are considered minimum deliverables, and the team is encouraged to disseminate findings as widely as possible.*

*Applicants are invited to reach out to Stantec during the application process to pose questions. Questions may be directed to Gwen Morgan at [gwen.morgan@stantec.com](mailto:gwen.morgan@stantec.com).*

## Selection Criteria

PROPOSALS WILL BE EVALUATED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA.  
THE SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL WILL PROVIDE:

**1**

### **A Compelling Question**

The research initiative will be creative, forward-thinking, and have the potential to make a significant impact for how interior designers improve quality of life. The proposal will demonstrate how this research relates to one of the themes within either a workplace, healthcare or educational capacity.

**2**

### **A Comprehensive Workplan**

A workplan outlining the scope of work to be undertaken and the associated timeline to achieve the various deliverables and milestones. It will also describe the roles and strategic integration of the interior design educator, student, and practitioner, and show how each will be an active participant how their strengths and perspectives will be leveraged.

**3**

### **Sound Research Methodology**

The research methodology will be well-articulated using any combination of quantitative or qualitative research methods. The research methodology will meet all ethical standards and be applicable to the research question.

**4**

### **Application to Practice**

The proposal will demonstrate how this research can be applied to help shift design practice, processes and outcomes.

**5**

### **Student / Academic qualifications**

Student and educator CV will demonstrate rigor and academic excellence.

## Schedule

MAY 2, 2023

**Proposals due**

JUNE 6, 2022

**Awards announced**

JULY 11, 2023

**Kickoff meeting  
50% of funding released**

JANUARY 29, 2024

**Progress report due  
25% of funding released**

MARCH 6, 2024

**Provide poster at IDEC  
conference demonstrating  
work in progress**

JUNE 24, 2024

**White paper due  
25% of funding released**

SEPTEMBER, 2024

**Submission to IDEC  
conference due**

MARCH, 2025

**IDEC conference**

## Submission Instructions:

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR FILES TO THE LINK BELOW:

**Submit** [↗](#)

THE FILE STRUCTURE SHOULD MIMIC THE FOLLOWING:

**1**

There is a folder with each research theme. Please add your submission with your files properly named by your region, sector or centralized.

**2**

File structure should look like this (one folder per entry):

Region>Category Name **OR**  
Sector>Category Name **OR**  
Central>Category Name

**PDF files** – file naming should be:  
RegionXXXX\_Project Name\_01.pdf  
SectorXXXX\_ Project Name\_02.pdf

**Source files for graphics in PDF (zip or compressed file)**

Please include the Resource Library ID number or link in your submission document

# Proposal Format

PROPOSANTS WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BY UPLOADING TO THE IDEC WEBSITE. NOTE, SOME ITEMS WILL BE REQUIRED AS AN ATTACHMENT.

## Applicant Information

Name:

University:

Contact information:

## Research Title

*No identifying information should be included.*

## Research Abstract

*No identifying information should be included.*

Describe your proposed research project  
(500 words)

## Research Application

*No identifying information should be included.*

- Explain how your project connects to your selected theme  
(200 words)
- Which sectors will be most impacted by the research findings?  
*Select all that apply.*
  - Healthcare
  - Education
  - Workplace

## Research Workplan: *Attach PDF*

*No identifying information should be included.*

- Please provide a workplan, project schedule, and budget for the activities you will undertake.
- Explain how the work will be shared between the student, educator, and practitioner partner in the research project.

## Research Methodology

*No identifying information should be included.*

Describe the research methodology you will employ to undertake your research, and its relevance to your research question.

## Student Portfolio *(Optional)*

Any student work that demonstrates a relationship to the proposed research topic.

## Educator Research History

*(attach supporting letter)*

- Letter of reference from a supervising representative indicating ability to conduct research.
- List of previous research works.

---

Disclaimer: Although submissions will be electronic, all submissions will become Stantec/IDEC possession.

IN PARTNERSHIP:

