Sasaki Foundation

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#1 Who is eligible for grants?

Our top priority is to work with partners who are equally committed to solving issues that align with the Foundation's areas of focus, as found on our "What We Do" page. With this as our starting point, we aim to work with and fund as diverse a group of individuals and organizations as possible. Below is a starter list of who we expect will apply for grants, but please note: this list is by no means exhaustive. We encourage you to reach out to us with your unique ideas and propositions for how we may support or partner with you.

Entrepreneurs, researchers, students, designers, social scientists, community leaders, and tech gurus are all welcome to apply for grants. Both individuals and small teams are eligible. Students enrolled in college and university programs are also eligible, but colleges and universities themselves are not eligible. The Foundation is unable to underwrite grants for overhead costs at this time. As such, any non-profit requesting funds must be working in conjunction with a research contingent with clear and expressed outcomes to be eligible for funds. That being said, the Sasaki Foundation may be able to help pair non-profit organizations with research teams on a case-by-case basis.

#2 What types of projects will the Foundation fund?

We are dedicated to finding innovative and impactful approaches to the issues outlined on our "What We Do" page. We will consider any grant proposals that offer insight into these issues. Most commonly, we expect to fund research projects with tangible outcomes. Additionally, through our curation of the Incubator at Sasaki, we can offer shared work space to individuals and small teams.

#3 Can you provide more details on the grant cycle?

A detailed call for proposals will be issued in the summer of 2018. The Board of Trustees, in conjunction with an Advisory Council comprised of leading industry and academic experts, will evaluate the proposals and select the research projects. Once this evaluation process is completed, grant award announcements will be made in the fall of 2018. Following the announcement of grants, research or other work towards goals in grant proposals is expected to commence in late 2018. The grantees will have access to the Incubator at Sasaki for periods ranging from two weeks for smaller projects to a full year for longer term projects.

#4 Is shared work space in the Incubator available for non-grantees?

Yes! Diverse and productive activity is central to the Incubator at Sasaki being a successful ecosystem for innovation. Shared work space will be available for short- and long-term rental for individuals and organizations, with a priority placed on start-ups and researchers who align with the Foundation's areas of focus. Please reach out to us at info@sasakifoundation.com for information on availability and pricing, and to schedule a tour of the space!

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#5 Can you clarify the Foundation's relationship with Sasaki, the design firm?

The Sasaki Foundation operates as an independent 501(c)3 private foundation. While it is located on the Sasaki campus and leverages Sasaki's in-house resources and global network, the Sasaki Foundation is a separate legal entity with a mission, goals, and programs that are wholly independent from Sasaki.

The Sasaki Foundation has historically been supported by contributions from Sasaki and private individuals; as it expands its programs, the Sasaki Foundation will increasingly rely on grants from like-minded foundations, corporations, professional associations, and individuals.

The Sasaki Foundation is located on Sasaki's campus, in Watertown, MA within a new 5,000 SF flexible research and shared work space called the Incubator at Sasaki. As the interface between Sasaki and its academic, professional, and community partners, the Incubator will be a site of cross-industry collaboration. The Sasaki Foundation serves as the steward and convener for this facility: activating it with public programs, facilitating research initiatives, and inviting new teams and ideas to join.

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