

SHASS+ Connectivity Fund Call for Proposals

Background and Focus

The SHASS+ Connectivity Fund is designed to support multidisciplinary projects that build bridges between SHASS researchers and colleagues in other schools at MIT. Proposals should feature projects that could not be accomplished successfully without combining the expertise of researchers from within SHASS with that of MIT colleagues outside of SHASS. Proposals require a project lead in SHASS and another MIT-based project lead whose primary appointment is outside of SHASS. The fund will award up to \$2 million per year across all projects.

The SHASS+ Connectivity Fund can provide initial support to new collaborations as well as provide resources to ongoing collaborations.

Proposals are welcome to support research, workshops, collaborative meetings or seminar series, conferences, performances, installations, etc. Collaborations that focus narrowly upon curriculum development are not eligible and should apply to the d'Arbeloff fund, Alumni Class funds, and/or the new SHASS Education Innovation Fund.

We will consider full proposals as well as smaller planning grants that would be used to build relationships, explore a topic collaboratively, and study a topic further in order to prepare a subsequent proposal.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- **Potential impact:** Is this a substantial and transformative project, or (for planning grants) does it have the potential to become one?
- **Depth of collaboration:** Is this a robustly multidisciplinary endeavor, for which SHASS elements are central? How does the project depend on the expertise of collaborators across disciplines through various stages of the project?
- **Feasibility:** Is the project realistic given the proposed timeline and budget?

Eligibility

Anyone with PI status is eligible to apply. If needed, prospective project leads can request one-time PI status from their Dean.

There must be one project lead whose primary appointment is in SHASS and one project lead whose primary appointment is at MIT but not in SHASS.



Additional collaborators outside MIT are welcome, but all funding must be managed at MIT and no subawards will be considered.

Proposal Deadline

Proposals are due by 5:00pm on Friday, November 22, 2024.

Funding and Resources

A total of up to \$2M is available, which is anticipated to be awarded across 20-25 projects, including both small planning grants and full proposals. Proposals are welcome for any amount.

Budgets for planning grants are anticipated to be within the range \$1k-\$15k.

In addition to the requested budget, proposals can also request supplemental resources such as:

- Up to 3 UROPs
- Part-time use of a space in Building 16 with a common area and 4 offices

Projects anticipating or desiring public policy relevance should consult with the MIT Policy Lab during proposal development. The Policy Lab can provide assistance with incorporating policy implications into the proposal as well as ongoing engagement of policy communities with project outcomes. Please contact Drew Story (dstory@mit.edu) at least 3 weeks ahead of the proposal deadline to discuss available resources and support.

Timeline

Friday, November 22 – Proposals are due by 5:00pm

Week of December 16 – Selected projects notified

January 6 – Earliest project start date

Spring 2025 (date TBD) – Awardees present their idea at MITHIC celebration event

January 2026 – Project report due

Spring 2026 – Community event TBD

Proposal Review

Proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee consisting of two co-chairs, 5 additional members from SHASS, plus one representative each from the School of Engineering, School of Science, School of Architecture and Planning, Sloan School of Management, and the Schwarzman College of Computing.

Those on the selection committee may apply for funding but will be asked to recuse themselves from discussion of their proposal. All questions regarding potential conflicts of interest during the review stage will be decided at the discretion of the committee co-chairs.

Proposals will not be shared outside of MITHIC, the CISO's office and the SHASS Dean's office, and the committee's evaluation process will be confidential.

Contact

For questions, please contact mithic-connectivity@mit.edu.

Proposal Sections

Proposals should be 1-5 pages, not including budget and budget justification.

Proposals will include the following sections (see application for more details):

- Project Team
- Research Statement
- Research Design and Objectives
- Description of Multidisciplinary Collaboration
- Anticipated Deliverables and Research Dissemination Plan
- Potential Impacts
- Project Timeline
- Other Information
- Budget and Justification

[A preview of the application can be found here.](#)

[The budget template can be found here.](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Visit mithic.mit.edu for a list of Frequently Asked Questions.