OBSERVATION AND ACTION NETWORK

Photo from Chhav, OAN Grants Fellow 2020

THE OBSERVATION & ACTION NETWORK (OAN)

2021 GRANTS PROGRAM

National Association of Students of Architecture
NASA

URBAN DESIGN COLLECTIVE

CENTER FOR THE LIVING CITY

2021 Partners

asia initiatives

PUBLIC LANDSCAPE + URBANISM STUDIO

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1. GRANTS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

OBSERVATION & ACTION NETWORK (OAN) Grants program is a collaboration with the Center for the Living City, the Urban Design Collective and NASA India that invites students who are extremely passionate about transforming their cities/towns for a better tomorrow. This program will utilize skill-sets and tools that both inform action and support students' developing voices. The OAN strives to create a network where students can involve themselves directly with identifying and solving real urban challenges with people in their neighborhoods while also connecting with other creative leaders throughout the world.

The Grants Program, initiated in 2020, received 42 project ideas from across India, and awarded three OAN Grants Fellowships. In 2021, the second annual OAN grants program will select up to five winning projects for OAN Grants Fellowships. Each of the winning individuals or teams will be awarded up to **₹ 1,25,000 per proposal to implement and realize their project ideas, ₹ 10,000 per proposal as mentor fees and ₹ 15,000 per proposal as Prize money on successful completion of the fellowship.**

ABOUT OAN

The Observation & Action Network is an emerging network of like-minded young leaders throughout the world. Building upon the momentum seen with youth activists such as Greta Thunberg, Ridhima Pandey, Licypriya Kangujam, Isra Hirsi, Autumn Peltier, Bruno Rodriguez, Helena Gualinga, and Mari Copeny, the OAN aims to cultivate urgently needed new urban leaders. The OAN seeks and supports diverse young leaders' implementable ideas for a better future in the places they care about. The world's youth are empowered through their observational skills to discover, connect, and take action in their communities. The OAN invites and encourages bold, creative responses to what is seen and unseen. The OAN is supported by organizations such as the Center for the Living City, Urban Design Collective, National Association of Students of Architecture, Asia Initiatives, Public Landscape and Urbanism Studio (PLUS), and the Narayanan Family Foundation.

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR THE LIVING CITY

Launched by a group of activists, practitioners, and academics in 2005, the Center for the Living City holds the singular distinction of being the only urbanist organization founded in collaboration with Jane Jacobs. In the years since its founding, the Center has become a leading global urbanist organization. Advancing social, environmental and economic justice forms the core of its purpose. The Center works to invite all perspectives, particularly those of the marginalized, to participate in the creation of solutions that are empathic, responsive, and community-based.

centerforthelivingcity.org

ABOUT URBAN DESIGN COLLECTIVE

A collaborative platform for architects, urban designers and planners to create liveable cities through participatory planning. UDC was founded in 2011 as a platform to mobilize those who want to change the way our cities are built. By providing an open platform for young design professionals, who otherwise as individuals are excluded in the city building process, to create and disseminate content, we give them a chance to voice themselves as change-makers for better cities. As a result, UDC has come to be a global community of architects, designers, engineers, artists, writers, photographers and many others who are passionate about cities.

urbandesigncollective.org

ABOUT NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE (NASA INDIA)

Headquartered at School of Planning and Architecture, NASA India is one of the largest Architectural Student Organizations in the world with student participants from more than two hundred colleges all over India and countries around the world. The main objective of NASA India is to create a platform for architecture students to learn and interact, engage them directly and indirectly through both online and offline platforms. NASA India conducts events, conventions, seminars, workshops, design competitions & trophies and many other activities.

www.nasaindia.co

We are grateful for the support and financial commitment made by Asia Initiatives and Narayanan Family Foundation/PLUS towards this 2021 OAN Grants Cycle.

ABOUT 2021 PARTNER, ASIA INITIATIVES

The mission of Asia Initiatives (AI) is to leverage the power of social capital to improve neighborhoods, healthcare, education and livelihoods for under-served communities, striving to bring positive change in the quality of life of people. With a particular focus on women, girls and their families, their initiatives utilize transformative methodologies and technologies to empower people to realize their full potential, and become key stakeholders of their own success.

asiainitiatives.org

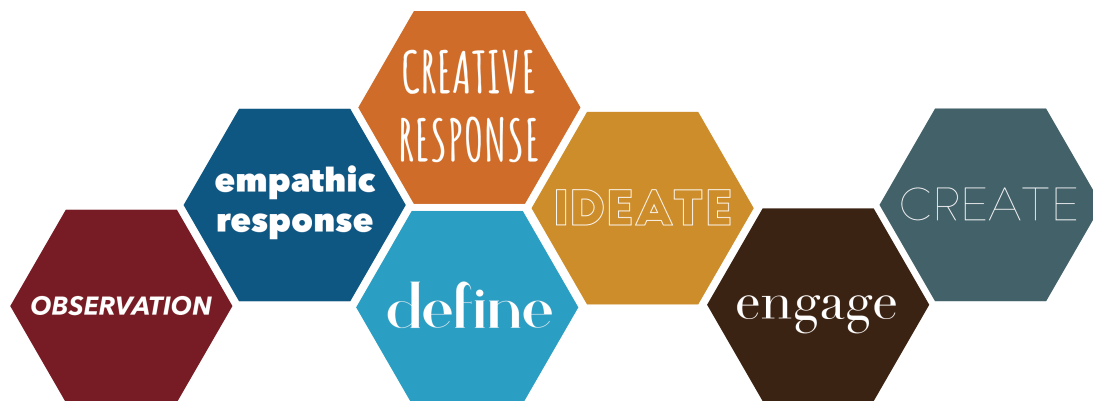## ABOUT 2021 PARTNER, NARAYANAN FAMILY FOUNDATION/ PLUS

The Narayanan Family Foundation's goal is to improve lives through investments in education, culture, and the environment. The foundation provides seed funding to several social impact projects.

Public Landscape and Urbanism Studio (PLUS) and The Narayanan Family Foundation have a joint initiative to focus on making our shared spaces ecological, equitable, and livable.

PLUS hopes to create a platform for landscape architects, allied professions, nonprofits, public agencies, and communities to address urgent challenges in India's built environment due to rapid urbanization, climate change and rising sea levels, and increasing social inequity.

plus-spaces.com

2. CHALLENGE & DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECT IDEA

The OAN Grants Program applicants are invited to identify a need/challenge/opportunity in their community and design a creative response. Applicants are encouraged to use their observations of a place they care about and engage with community stakeholders, leading to holistic, place-based solutions. Project proposals may be developed by an individual applicant, by student teams, or as community-partnership projects. The project proposal may be located anywhere in India where the applicant has a deep connection to the environment that they seek to repair or transform.

What makes a winning project idea for the OAN Grants Program?

1. Projects must be place-based and informed by empathic responses. The project proposal should derive from:

   ‣ On-the-ground, place-based observations → leading to empathic responses → and the creative response;
   ‣ an urban ecological lens (social/environmental/economic) centered around the applicant's observations;
   ‣ insight from authentic community dialogue;
   ‣ neighborhood/site assessments.

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2. Projects may develop through the identification of urgent problems or unique opportunities facing their community, such as:

   ‣ from the impacts of climate change;

   ‣ rapid urbanization;

   ‣ access to safe drinking water and sanitation;

   ‣ access to food and shelter; *and*

   ‣ elements that comprise the healing and transformation of complex urban or rural settlements.

3. Project ideas can be in the form of physical interventions, design of participatory approaches that lead to the development of a host of interventions that might include, but are not limited to:

   ‣ structures or their removal;

   ‣ information campaigns;

   ‣ public art projects;

   ‣ multi-stakeholder models for implementation;

   ‣ new community policies;

   ‣ new digital tools;

   ‣ structures, landscapes, mobility and pedestrian enhancements;

   ‣ access to services; *and*

   ‣ other changes for the community and its members.

4. The OAN project proposal must:

   ‣ Be based upon on-the-ground observations and community conversations;
   ‣ Describe the way empathy has informed your creative response;
   ‣ Identify the social, environmental and economic elements of the proposal (an urban ecological framework);
   ‣ Identify a project mentor*; *and*
   ‣ Identify and engage community stakeholders.

* A project mentor is a professional, community member, or professor who agrees to mentor the team's project for the completion of the project. The mentor must agree in writing to be available for team check-ins, financial oversight, and the project development process.

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

▸ To be eligible to apply for the Observation & Action Network (OAN) Grants Program, the applicant must be a student of a unit that is a part of NASA India.

▸ The applicant(s) must be a bonafide student of their department/ institute/ university as of 15 August, 2021.

▸ Applicant(s) entries must have <u>at least one</u> 3rd or 4th year student as of 15th August, 2021.

▸ Applicants are open to individual and group entries. Group entries must <u>not</u> exceed <u>5 students.</u>

▸ Each entry <u>must</u> identify a project mentor.

▸ There is no limit on the number of entries that can be received from a single department/ institute/ university.

▸ The applicant(s) must be available to carry out their project with their identified mentor between October 2021 - June 2022.

▸ Fellows may continue to work on the expansion of the project past the one-year OAN Grants Program Fellowship. However, the initial project scope and implementation must be completed during the fellowship timeframe.

▸ Applicant(s) must agree to commit to spending adequate time towards effective execution of their project if selected as OAN Fellows. It is advisable to ensure at the time of applying that the department/ institute/ university has no objection to their providing this time commitment.

4. THE GRANTS PROGRAM PROCESS & TIMELINE

As change-makers of the future, applicants will submit their ideas for an independent, team, or community-partnership project to the **OAN Grants Program** for review by a distinguished panel of judges. Each project proposal will be critically analyzed based upon its empathic and creative response, need, stakeholder identification and depth of the community collaboration.

Up to 5 awarded students or teams (maximum of 5 students in a team) will become **OAN Fellows** and will receive up to **₹ 1,25,000 per proposal to implement and realize their project ideas**, **₹ 10,000 per proposal as mentor fees** and **₹ 15,000 per proposal as Prize money on successful completion of the fellowship.***

*However, the participants are also free to utilise the entire money awarded for implementation of their ideas as per their discretion.

TIMELINE

Stage 1:

‣ **Launch of the Grants Program: 01.07.2021**
‣ **Registration deadline: 15.09.2021**
‣ **Deadline for FAQ: 30.09.2021**
‣ **Expression of Interest submission deadline: 15.10.2021**
‣ **Announcement of OAN fellows: 1.11.2021**

Stage 2: (Applicable only for the selected fellows)

‣ **OAN fellowship project begins: 08.11.2021**
‣ **Intermediate progress report: March 2022**
‣ **Completion Report: June 2022**

5. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicant must first register to express interest in submitting to the Grants Program using the form on the NASA website, **https://nasaindia.co/OAN/OAN**. Registration is open from **15.08.2021 till 15.09.2021** and will need the following details:

    ▸ College code
    ▸ College name
    ▸ Name of the project leader
    ▸ Name of the participants (if there is a team)
    ▸ Email ID of the project leader for communication
    ▸ Contact number of the project leader
    ▸ Name & Profile of project mentor

2. The final submission should be made using the form on the NASA website **https://nasaindia.co/OAN/OAN**.

3. The submission should be in the form of a single PDF comprised of up to 10 A4 pages and a video link (Youtube/ Vimeo) not exceeding 1 minute and 30 seconds.

4. A detailed project profile should be filled at the time of submissions which will include:

    ▸ Tell us about your primary motivation to participate and execute this project in 100 words
    ▸ Objective in one sentence (What is the aim of the project)
    ▸ Activity (What are all the tasks that will be taken up/ fulfilled as a part of the project)
    ▸ Outcomes (What do you hope to achieve or change at the end of the project - Immediate & short term benefits)
    ▸ Output (What would be the deliverables of the project)
    ▸ Impact (What do you hope to achieve or change at the end of the project - long term benefits)
    ▸ List of primary stakeholders/ Beneficiaries

▸ Are there any approvals/ Permissions to be sorted for the project?

▸ If yes, who is the concerned authority

5. A detailed profile of the mentor (Size of the pdf shall not exceed 1mb.) with the following details:

▸ Name of the mentor

▸ Occupation

▸ Designation

▸ Qualification

▸ Area of expertise

▸ Why is this person an appropriate mentor for your project (Explain in 200 words reflecting the mentor's qualification/past experiences to substantiate his/her role for the project)

▸ Relevant works: (Link to profile/website of the mentor & his / her works, CV's will also be accepted.

▸ Contact number & email ID

6. The applicant's proposal must have a title which is clearly mentioned in the A4 PDF document.

7. The maximum file size of the PDF should not exceed 10MB.

8. The file name of the PDF should be the **registration code**.

9. Name of the video uploaded to Youtube or Vimeo should be the **registration code**. Kindly ensure viewing access for the same.

10. Entry must bear the registration code on the right bottom of every page and at the start of the video.

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11. Applicants and the project mentor must also write a 'Letter of Declaration' to be submitted as part of the proposal. The format for this will be available on the NASA website **https://nasaindia.co/OAN/OAN**

12. **The entire submission package should be received by 15.10.2021, 17:00 IST for the entry to be considered.**

13. Entries not adhering to any of these rules will be immediately disqualified.

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6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each project proposal will be critically analyzed based upon its empathic and creative response, need, design strategy, stakeholder identification and community collaboration.

1. About the Project
‣ What is the problem/opportunity?
‣ What is the proposed solution?
‣ Objectives
‣ Activities
‣ Outcome
‣ Output
‣ Impact

2. Methodology
‣ What observations and empathic responses were used in creating the proposal?

3. Stakeholder & beneficiary mapping
‣ Who are the stakeholders?
‣ Where they are located?
‣ How have they been engaged in the process?
‣ Outcomes of preliminary stakeholder consultation (if conducted)

4. Design
‣ How does the concept demonstrate an empathic response?
‣ Is it of lasting value?
‣ Does it demonstrate wisdom in the selection of materials and implementation strategies?

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5. Impact

- ▸ What difference will it make/ is it making?

6. Site details / Permissions

- ▸ Site selection criteria
- ▸ Site specification & conditions

7. Design Specifications

- ▸ Details

8. Costs & Funding strategy

- ▸ Budget estimate
- ▸ Identifying and procuring other sources of funding, if required (applicable only in case the proposed project cost exceeds the entitled grants amount).

9. Operations and Maintenance

- ▸ Action Plan for O&M post-execution on the site
- ▸ Identification of relevant stakeholders for operation & maintenance
- ▸ The project should last with community support.

10. Stakeholder engagement

- ▸ How will the project's beneficiaries be engaged over time
- ▸ Stakeholder engagement strategy for implementation (with the identified stakeholders as project beneficiaries and with the stakeholders for O & M)

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7. THE OAN FELLOWSHIPS & RECOGNITION

Up to 5 winning individuals or teams will become will become the **2021 OAN India Fellows**. They will be formally announced via email and also on the website link: **https://nasaindia.co/OAN/OAN**.

The selected fellows are required to sign a MoU with the OAN grants program hosts after a formal announcement of winners.

Fellows will receive a certificate that identifies their achievement and will be prominently announced through traditional media outlets, websites and through social media. Funds for the implementation of their projects will be distributed consistent with the laws of India and the USA, and under the requirements of local municipalities where the projects are placed.

All selected fellows and shortlisted entries will be listed on NASA India and the Center for the Living City's OAN.

8. QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

FAQ for the Grants Program will be updated on the website at **https://nasaindia.co/OAN/OAN.**

9. DISCLAIMER AND COPYRIGHT

The **OAN Grants Program** will be promoted globally and the range of ideas generated through the program will serve as examples of the Observation & Action Network's international goals.

Chosen OAN Fellows must agree to a set of terms and conditions that will be stipulated at the time of awarding the fellowship to be eligible to receive the grant money and execute their proposal. There is no legal claim to the award of grant money or corresponding assets. In the event that the chosen OAN Fellows are unable to adhere to the terms and conditions stipulated, the fellowship is deemed lapsed. The OAN Grants Program reserves the right to decide what to do with the lapsed fellowship and grant money.

The submitted documents cannot be returned.

The participants of the Grants Program declare to agree that their submitted entry can be published in different media. Authors retain a copyright for their work. However, all submissions become the joint property of the program founders CFTLC, UDC and NASA India and 2021 partners Asia Initiatives and PLUS who have the right to publish all or any part of the submitted material. Publications, if any, in respect of the project work shall be in the name of the program and it shall be duly acknowledged that CFTLC, UDC, NASA India, Asia Initiatives have jointly carried out the work.