

# The Great Idea Challenge

## Great Ideas for a Greater Community

 OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



### Important Dates

(see back for more info)

#### March 6

Info Meeting

#### March 13

Info Meeting

#### March 15

Info Meeting

#### May 1

Deadline to Request Invitation to Submit Letter of Inquiry

#### June 8

Letters of Inquiry due at 5 p.m.

#### July 9

Application Open

#### Sept. 21

Grant Applications due by 5 p.m.

#### January 2019

Announcement of Grantees



### About Us

Founded in 1969, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that works with donors to create charitable funds that will benefit our community both now and in the future. For more information, visit [www.occf.org](http://www.occf.org).



### Questions?

Please submit any questions or a need for clarification to [GreatIdea@occf.org](mailto:GreatIdea@occf.org).

What do rivers, NBA teams, bike trails and sidewalks, food banks, art museums, and booming downtown districts have in common? Together, they've helped push forward Oklahoma City's unwavering rise to "it" city status. But each of these things – and hundreds more – exist today because years ago, there was a stirring of the relentless passion of a visionary. Someone whose imagination wouldn't be confined to the expected; whose aspirations refused to settle for more of the same.

This is a call to the visionaries. The ones who see what can be and dare to imagine what doesn't yet seem possible. The Great Idea Challenge is a celebration of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation's 50th anniversary and the momentum caused by one of those visionaries – our founder, John E. Kirkpatrick – who had the courage to believe in Oklahoma City.

In 1969, John E. Kirkpatrick introduced a great idea to our community. At age 61, well into his career in the oil and gas industry, Mr. Kirkpatrick embarked on a journey to create a foundation for the community that would inspire others to give to charity. At the time, few of his colleagues had heard of a community foundation and even fewer understood it. But Mr. Kirkpatrick's vision and commitment to his great idea persevered, and the Oklahoma City Community Foundation grew to be an enduring resource, connecting many generous donors with hard-working charitable organizations to create a greater community.

The Great Idea Challenge is designed to inspire and bring forward innovative ideas for projects, programs and activities that will impact our community throughout the next 50 years. The Oklahoma City Community Foundation will award grants of \$150,000-\$200,000 to support Great Ideas for a Greater Community: projects and programs that will connect resources, plant seeds, leverage assets or launch ventures that are new to Oklahoma City and central Oklahoma.



### Grant Application Guidelines and Information

We are seeking projects with the following characteristics:

- Innovative, bold ideas that provide meaningful impact and enhance the community.
- Collaboration among organizations with different capacities.
- Projects that impact a significant population, include a wide-range of citizens and are not limited by organizational restrictions.
- Programs should involve diverse groups in the community, be open and not restricted by residency or membership.
- Funded projects may take place over one or two years and implementation should begin in 2019.
- Opportunity for sustainability or continuation after the grant funds are expended.
- Viability and demonstrated capacity to successfully execute project.
- Support from others: in-kind, organizational or financial.
- Grants will not be awarded for capital campaigns or fundraising events.



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## Who is Eligible to Apply?

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations serving central Oklahoma.
- Nonexempt organizations with ideas for projects that qualify for the use of charitable dollars. For example, community groups, schools, local government agencies or state or city connected agencies may apply as long as the funding request is for programs for the public, located in central Oklahoma.
- Individuals partnering with qualified organizations.

## Information Meetings

All interested applicants are encouraged to attend one of the following informational meetings to learn more about The Great Idea Challenge. At the meeting, we will discuss eligibility, grant guidelines and application process. RSVP by March 1 to [GreatIdea@occf.org](mailto:GreatIdea@occf.org).

- **March 6, 2018** 3:00 p.m. at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation  
1000 N. Broadway Ave.
- **March 13, 2018** 6:30 p.m. at the Northwest Library  
5600 NW 122nd St.
- **March 15, 2018** 6:30 p.m. at the Southern Oaks Library  
6900 S. Walker Ave.

## Online Application Process

- **May 1, 2018** Deadline to request an invitation to submit letter of inquiry.
- **June 8, 2018** Letters of Inquiry due by 5 p.m.  

Letters of inquiry will be accepted via an online application process. To receive an invitation to submit a letter of inquiry, please email [GreatIdea@occf.org](mailto:GreatIdea@occf.org) by May 1, 2018. Include a brief description of your project, partner organizations and the target population. You will then receive a link and access code to complete the online letter of inquiry. Letters of inquiry should provide an outline of the project and an indication of the capacity of the applicants. The most promising applicants and viable projects will be invited to submit a full grant application.
- **July 9, 2018** Application Open
- **Sep. 21, 2018** Grant Applications due by 5 p.m.  

Those invited to submit a full grant application will receive an invitation by July 9, 2018, to complete the online application process.
- **January 2019** Announcement of Grantees  

Successful grantees will be notified by January 2019 and project implementation should begin in 2019.

## Questions and Clarifications

Please submit any questions or a need for clarification on any aspect of the application requirements to [GreatIdea@occf.org](mailto:GreatIdea@occf.org). Replies will be provided in a timely manner during the workweek (not including any holidays). Questions will not be answered after the deadline.