

AIA Upjohn Research Initiative 2024

Call for submissions

[Submit an entry here >](#)

The AIA Upjohn Research Initiative supports applied research projects that enhance the value of design and professional practice knowledge.

This AIA program funds up to six research grants of \$15,000–\$30,000 annually for projects completed in a 6- to 18-month period. The funds must be fully matched with hard dollars, with a maximum of 10% allocated for overhead. Grant recipients' research findings and outcomes are published online by AIA.

Academic institutions, firms, practice, and other research and non-profit organizations are all eligible for grants.

2024 grants

Research should be relevant and applicable to practicing architects. Upjohn Research grant funding will be allocated to projects related to the priorities outlined in [AIA's Strategic Plan](#) and the [Framework for Design Excellence](#).

Projects must address one or more of these areas:

- **Zero-carbon** (e.g., zero-energy and zero-carbon buildings and projects; reuse of existing buildings and salvaged materials; embodied carbon; low carbon or carbon sequestering materials; circular building economy)
- **Resilient design** (e.g., disaster preparedness; risk and vulnerability assessment; managed retreat; passive survivability and livability; flexibility and adaptability; community resiliency; ecosystem health)
- **Equitable communities** (e.g., environmental justice; community-scale issues beyond projects; community engagement and empowerment; social justice; social health; equity, diversity, and inclusion; mobility and access; temporary and transitional housing models)
- **Health** (e.g., healthy and sustainable materials; regenerative materials; human impact of material and design decisions; neuroscience)
- **Practice innovation** (e.g., evidence-based design methodologies; technology in practice/in design; AI; project delivery; automated processes)

Submission dates

Submission deadline:
August 28, 2024 by 5pm PT

Notifications to applicants:
by November 8, 2024

Verification of matching funds and agreement: by November 26, 2024

Submission fee: None

Submission details

Project submissions are completed online.

- Project title
- Abstract (include project concept and brief description of methodology)
- Budget
- Summary of projected outcomes (include brief description of how the project aligns with this year's theme)
- Clients and knowledge communities served
- Approach to collaboration/partnership
- Images (optional)
- Principal investigator(s) with institutional affiliation(s) and contact information
- Contact information for three references

NOTE: Please omit any identifying information from the title, descriptive text, budget, and the optional images before submitting for the blind review process. Failure to do so may compromise your submission.

Criteria & selection

Given their role in helping establish the program, the jury panel is comprised of seven professionals from the AIA Board Knowledge Committee and the AIA College of Fellows.

Submissions are evaluated based on:

- Demonstration that the research enhances the value of design and/or professional practice knowledge (30%)
- Innovation (30%)
- Evidence of collaboration/partnership (20%)
- Validity of research method/s (10%)
- Strength of projected outcomes related to alignment with theme (10%)



Questions? Email upjohnresearch@aia.org or visit AIA's [Upjohn Research page](#)