



# LINDY CENTER *For* CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

## Anti-Racism Mini-Grant Application

The Lindy Center for Civic Engagement mini-grant program fulfills Drexel University's strategic goal of preparing students to address society's most pressing challenges—one of which is systemic and institutional racism—and the Lindy Center's mission of facilitating student learning about social issues, engagement with communities that have lived experience and expertise on social issues and social change, and reflection on students' relationship to social issues and role in social change. This mini-grant directs Lindy Center monetary resources toward student projects and learning focused on racial justice and anti-racism in the Mantua and Powelton Village neighborhoods of West Philadelphia, especially projects that demonstrate deep relationship-building within this community. In 2023 we have the funds to distribute 5 grants of up to \$1,000 (possibly more grants if they have smaller budgets). Given that the award is relatively small, projects that are the best fit will be in a startup or exploratory phase (in which case grantees can also take advantage of the Lindy Center's resources and networking with other grantees) or be larger projects that are seeking support for one specific component related to the grant's focus areas.

If you are a student or group interested in further understanding and addressing systemic racism and its consequences in the West Philadelphia and broader Philadelphia community in an innovative and sustainable way, please consider applying for this Anti-Racism Mini-Grant. Projects can be within the following areas, which are expanded upon below (other areas may also be considered if they meet the larger goals of the grant):

- **Dialogue** (i.e., open conversation between Drexel students and community members)
- **Education** (i.e., promoting digital literacy, teaching first aid skills, etc.)
- **Arts and Culture** (i.e., poetry, spoken word, storytelling, etc.)
- **Economic Mobility** (i.e., capacity building for small businesses, marketing, etc.)

- **Global Perspectives** (i.e., global travel support, education on global issues, community-building across global settings)

We highly encourage all applicant projects to make use of existing organizations both within and outside of Drexel, and the Lindy Center is happy to connect applicants and grantees with partners such as faculty working on relevant research and teaching, community organizations providing similar programming, and more.

### **Providing Space, Resources, and Opportunities for Dialogue**

The Lindy Center is committed to facilitating and supporting intentional and informed conversations between students and community members that address issues impacting their communities and the role of students in addressing issues on and off campus. At Lindy, open dialogue and active learning are encouraged as meaningful components to civic engagement as they offer students the opportunity to hear from others from various backgrounds and form shared understanding of issues and act collectively to make change. Dialogue can help participants consider how others experience or understand race and racism in diverse ways, and to begin a process of building collective concern for racism and a collective capacity for anti-racism work.

### **K-12 and Peer Education:**

A core component of Drexel's University's mission is to provide students with a "valuable, rigorous, experiential, technology-infused education." As part of this mission, the Lindy Center supports courses, scholarships, and programs that enhance both individual and shared learning about pressing societal issues. It also partners with organizations in support of efforts to expand educational access in neighborhoods impacted by race-based inequities in education. Supporting education related to anti-racism can include constructing resources or programs to enhance student understanding of the multi-faceted causes and consequences of systemic disparities that plague the U.S (United States)., partnering with faculty engaged in research or teaching issues related to anti-racism, contributing to community efforts to address racial inequities in education, and providing educational programs in the community that seek to address issues rooted in systemic racism.

## **Arts and Culture:**

Students may choose to create art, support the efforts of an artist or artistic organization, or enhance access to the arts in West Philadelphia. The Arts and Culture Hub at the Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships is one way Drexel students can utilize and integrate their learning into the local arts community. This might include working with a faculty member in connection to the Hub, supporting a program within the Hub, or contributing to community outreach and access to the Hub.

Philadelphia, including the neighborhoods surrounding Drexel, also has a robust arts and culture scene with several organizations engaged in the arts, including many that focus on anti-racism and social justice including One Art Community Center, the Paul Robeson House, the Institute of Contemporary Art, the Urban Art Gallery, the Pearlstein Gallery (Drexel's gallery), the University City Arts League, and more. Drexel students may choose to collaborate with organizations or community residents to pursue visual, performing, or language arts as tools for addressing racism within the community or to gain a better understanding of racism within the art community.

## **Economic Mobility:**

Students can apply for a grant to develop a project with an organization or program such as BFLC (Beachell Family Learning Center) and connect to local businesses or business efforts seeking to strengthen local entrepreneurship. Students can also work with a faculty member in a field related to community-based economic development to better understand the barriers to local entrepreneurship and business ownership.

The Beachell Family Learning Center (BFLC) at Drexel's Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships connects West Philadelphia residents with economic opportunities including adult education, financial wellness, workforce development, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship. Through its programs, the Center supports and provides pathways to employment, education, and entrepreneurship for the economic mobility of West Philadelphia residents. They also offer Drexel students opportunities to participate in community-based economic development in West Philadelphia during their time at Drexel through volunteering at the computer lab or BFLC events and programs.

## **Global Perspectives:**

Students can apply for travel support to connect local and global perspectives, experiences, and contexts of racial justice. By participating in an Intensive Course Abroad or other global learning experience and developing a way to bring that learning back to communities and issues at Drexel and in West Philadelphia, students can identify and uplift experiences of racism and anti-racism efforts in all parts of the world not only as important, but also as interwoven.

The Center for Black Culture and Global Engagement, Intensive Courses Abroad engage students in issues related to racial justice, indigenous knowledge, building relationships and community. In partnership with these offices and/or community partners in West Philadelphia, students would develop projects that highlight a particular aspect of racial justice they explore through an ICA or other global learning experience and bring that learning back to West Philadelphia through workshops, resources, events, or other means. Students can apply to funds to support their travel or other parts of the project not tied to work they do for academic credit.

## **Applying for the Anti-Racism Mini-Grant:**

There are two submission requirements to be considered for the Mini-grant—both must be submitted **no later than April 3, 2023**:

- An application form that asks for information about your project.
- One piece of supporting documentation that demonstrates how the project aligns with the purpose of the grant—this can include a letter of support from a project partner or collaborator other than the grant applicant, an informal statement of support from a project partner or collaborator other than the applicant, materials that already exist from the project (fliers, website, social media, etc.), and more—please contact Cara Scharf at the Lindy Center ([ces337@drexel.edu](mailto:ces337@drexel.edu)) if you have questions about your submission.

[Application form can be found here.](#)