

Form Name:	Provost Innovation and Enhancement Grant
Submission Time:	September 8, 2022 1:18 pm
Browser:	Chrome 105.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	138.87.133.3
Unique ID:	1007317514
Location:	40.5093, -88.9844

<b>Proposal Title</b>	Design Thinking @ ISU Collaboration Space
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<b>Department/Program/Unit</b>	Creative Technologies Program / Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts
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<b>Proposal Leader(s)</b>	Rick Valentin
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<b>Leader Department/Unit Name</b>	Creative Technologies Program
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### Additional Leaders or Participants

<b>Additional Leader</b>	Peter Kaufman
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<b>Additional Department</b>	Department of Marketing, College of Business
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<b>Add leader or participant?</b>	Yes
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<b>Participant Name</b>	James Jones
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<b>Participant Department</b>	Katie School of Insurance and Business, College of Business
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<b>Add additional leader or participant?</b>	Yes
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<b>Participant 3 Name</b>	Rose Marshack
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<b>Participant 3 Department</b>	Creative Technologies Program
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## Background

Collaboration is a stated core value within Illinois State University's strategic plan. It is a highly valued skill, but it is also a methodology which is not easily taught. Design Thinking, a formalization of the process designers use to build human-centered solutions to complex problems, provides an established framework for collaboration, whether it is a team working to build a complex software application with an industry partner or a group working collectively to address a community need.

Currently at ISU there are faculty from the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts and the College of Nursing integrating Design Thinking into their curricula; faculty using Design Thinking for project-based student/industry collaborations (Innovation Consulting Community and Design Streak); and faculty, staff, administration, and members of the local community who have participated in Design Thinking workshops sponsored by the College of Business.

However, Illinois State University's core value of collaboration has not yet been formally established within the institution. This proposal seeks startup funding for the creation of a campus center for teaching collaboration, facilitating cross-campus communication, and fostering industry partnerships.

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## Goals and Objectives

Establish a physical space for ISU's (and Creative Technologies') commitment to teaching collaboration and facilitating interdisciplinary problem-solving by employing frameworks such as design thinking, multidisciplinary teams, and linking coursework to industry and experiential learning.

Support ISU's core values of civic engagement, EDI, respect, and integrity. The Design Thinking methodology, when properly implemented, can provide a structured and equitable environment for discussion of complex social issues within the campus community and the greater community.

Support for EDI-A Pillar 9: Physical Spaces that Promote Belonging: "Inviting spaces designated (when possible) for faculty, student, staff interaction and informal dialogue."

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## Proposed Strategy or Plan

Currently there are faculty, staff, students and administrators utilizing Design Thinking methods across campus with no dedicated space equipped for collaborative group work. In addition, groups meeting with outside collaborators (business, industry, government, and educational) would benefit from an inviting space for brainstorming, interviewing, and presentations.

We plan to design and equip a model space based around collaborative work and active engagement, available to classes, seminars and community workshops, much like existing spaces at comparator institutions (the new Siebel Center for Design at UIUC, the Stanford d.School, and the Petrick Idea Center at IWU).

The space will feature a flexible arrangement with mobile tables, chairs, and whiteboards that can be quickly reconfigured for small group work (groups of 5 at tables), lecture/presentation (forward-facing rows of tables and chairs), and discussion (seminar circle).

This space will be an open work environment for Design Thinking @ ISU, supporting cross-disciplinary courses, workshops, and public-facing projects. It will also provide an attractive space for external speakers and workshop facilitators, and create an inviting environment for the campus and the greater community.

Technology Solutions has generously offered the use of the Julian Hall "DIGGS" space as a home for this initiative.

In addition, we plan to initiate a visiting speaker series to provide insight and consultation on the application of Design Thinking methodologies within the creative, academic, and private sectors.

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## Proposal Beneficiaries

Creative Technologies, one of the fastest growing units on campus, with a percentage of underrepresented students higher than the university average, already provides numerous courses with an emphasis on collaboration and engagement that would benefit from this space: CTK 260 and 460 (undergraduate and graduate project-based courses), and CTK 380 and 481 (multiple sections of which are collaborative in nature). In addition, interdisciplinary courses have been regularly taught with faculty teams from CTK, WKSOA, and the entire WKCFA, such as Spring 2022's "Design Thinking for Student Success" - courses combining multiple units often need a home.

Campus and community Design Thinking workshops such as those sponsored by the College of Business in Summer 2021, Spring 2022's Design Thinking for Academic Affairs and Summer 2022's Center for Integrated Professional Development DT workshop would also be hosted in the space.

In addition, we would like to make the space available for the support of other cross-campus collaborative courses outside the WKCFA.

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### Expected Outcome/Deliverables/Indicators of Success

A physical representation and identity for Illinois State University's commitment to its core value of collaboration.

Creation of a home base for collaborative and multidisciplinary instruction on campus based on human-centered, Design Thinking methodologies.

A working model for future campus-wide, cross-disciplinary active learning spaces at Illinois State University.

An increased connection with industry and community partners through workshops, guest speakers and collaborative projects and courses.

Support for EDI-A Pillar 9: Physical Spaces that Promote Belonging: "Inviting spaces designated (when possible) for faculty, student, staff interaction and informal dialogue"

Support for ECE II.C - "Foster Innovation" - "C) Enhance organizational infrastructure to support innovation and collaboration 1. Create more spaces that encourage collaborative research, teaching, and other learning activities 2. Further integrate curricular and co-curricular programs that prepare students for success."

In alignment with the concepts of Design Thinking and Human Centered Design, the effectiveness of the space to achieve the goals outlined in this proposal will be evaluated through formal "user" interviews with faculty, staff, students and outside community members who have interacted with and within the space.

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**Sustainability**

This grant will provide for light-weight, moveable equipment that can be adapted for a variety of pedagogical setups and formal and informal community discussions. By its very nature this equipment is sustainable and will be in use for many years.

There is a need for a space and dedicated equipment for cross-campus teaching and collaboration, so these items will be consistently used. There are currently enough WKCFA courses and cross-campus workshops to fully utilize such a space.

This request is part of a larger, ad-hoc initiative by faculty and administrators in the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts, College of Business, Mennonite College of Nursing, and College of Arts and Sciences, and College of Education, working to establish Design Thinking as a method for collaborative problem-solving, a framework for project-based partnerships with external entities, and a platform for discussion of social issues at ISU.

Receiving this grant will enable us to recruit local and regional partners to support and expand the Design Thinking @ ISU initiative.

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<b>Anticipated starting date</b>	Oct 16, 2022
<b>Anticipated ending date</b>	Oct 13, 2023
<b>Budget</b>	19842.00
<b>Will department/school/unit funds be utilized?</b>	No
<b>Budget Breakdown</b>	<a href="https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/13337301221">https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/13337301221</a>
<b>Attach letter of endorsement/support by next level supervisor (e.g. Chair/Director Dean or AVP)</b>	<a href="https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/13337301228">https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/13337301228</a>

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