

BRITTON FUND

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS –2020-2021 funding

The Britton Fund supports research and education projects of interest and value to members of the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (WCISA). Funds received from WCISA, donations from members, workday sponsors, and sponsorship from industry leaders support our mission. Britton Fund grants support qualified projects up to the **level of approximately \$30,000 per project**. Projects may continue for up to two calendar years—publications may emerge later.



Britton Fund grants provide start-up funding for preliminary studies, matching funds, or planning efforts for larger studies. We encourage investigators to seek matching funds and collaborate with industry leaders. The Britton Fund does not pay administrative costs for grant processing.

Current issues with tree health, establishment and sustainability in the states served by the Western Chapter (CA, HI, NV, AZ) include but are not limited to the following challenges:

- Tree establishment, as affected by cultural practices in nurseries. Examples: structural pruning practices, container root pruning systems, and other methods of developing strong young stock.
- Spread, detection or control of endemic and/or exotic pests/pathogens. Examples: *Pittosporum* decline, Invasive shot hole borer, Golden Spotted Oak Borer, Lobate lac scale of *Ficus* spp., *Ficus microcarpa* stem gall wasp, *Ceratocystis* wilt of Ohia (*Metrosideros polymorpha*), Deodar Cedar decline, and other emergent pests and diseases of shade trees.
- Studies of urban tree diversity and survival and health as city streets and open spaces are exposed to changes in resources. Examples: high night temperatures in urban areas; water quality (salinity), water quantity and application methodology; air quality responses; conversion of standard landscapes adjacent to urban trees to water-conserving landscapes; drought tolerance/adaptability, species pruning requirements in response to storms and climate change; and effects of climate change on landscape trees.

Successful proposals must produce a report or publication, valuable to professionals in arboriculture, which becomes available to WCISA members through the Britton Fund and/or the WCISA Chapter's web sites or publication (*Western Arborist*). Qualified applicants need not be a member of the WCISA, however; the applicant must have superior knowledge in the subject areas pertaining to their proposal and demonstrated ability to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals as well as in the *Western Arborist* magazine.

Proposal Elements

The proposal shall include the following:

- I. An introduction stating the problem to be investigated and its relevance to arborists especially those in the states served by the Western Chapter. A review of the relevant literature with a bibliography is required.
- II. Project or Research/Experiment description. If a research project, this would include the experimental design, the methods used in the research and the analytical/statistical procedures proposed to evaluate the results.
- III. A section detailing the research outputs such as presentations at meetings, web pages, webinars, blogs, articles (peer-reviewed and popular) that will be developed as a result of the research.
- IV. A detailed budget that explains or proposes how funding will be utilized including: supplies, equipment, dates, vendors, and labor amounts. Administrative costs shall not be part of the budget.

Timeline:

July 30, 2020 – Pre-proposals due (less than 2 pages text, plus rough timeline and budget).

August 30, 2020 – Acceptance/rejection of pre-proposals.

September 30, 2020 – Final proposals due.

October 30, 2020 – Results/acceptance announcements from Britton Fund research committee to investigators.

Funding begins January 1, 2021. Half of the funds may be paid in January 2021 if the project continues for two calendar years. Extension of proposal funding and project duration is possible subject to board approval.

Evaluation criteria:

-relevance to industry and WCISA membership

-appropriateness of the project approaches and methods

-demonstration of applicant's qualifications

-feasibility of project completion according to the time line as described

-potential for the budget to fund the project and outputs as developed in the proposal

-clarity, organization and quality of the written proposal

-a clear plan for deliverables such as publications, webinars, social media outputs, lectures etc.

General Information about the Britton Fund's research goals, funding criteria, application instructions, and contact information are available at <http://www.thebrittonfund.org/research-proposal-guidelines/>

Proposals are evaluated by the research committee under the direction and approval of The Britton Fund Board of Directors. For questions concerning the proposal process, the timeline, or anything else concerning this process please contact James Downer.

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