

## BRITTON FUND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS –2021-2022 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**. 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 pays a limited amount for administrative costs of grant processing.

**Current issues** with tree health, establishment, and sustainability in 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, gold spotted oakborer, lobate lac scale of *Ficus* spp., *Ficus microcarpa* stem gall wasp, *Ceratocystis* wilt of ohia (*Metrosideros polymorpha*), deodar cedar decline, and other emergent pests of landscape shade trees.
- Studies of urban tree diversity, survival, and health as city streets and open spaces experience changes in environmental 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 other effects of climate change on landscape trees.
- Research that documents the impacts of urban trees on wildlife diversity, or details ecosystem services in urban forests is encouraged.

Funded 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. Proposed research must be scientifically sound, replicable, and of a caliber suitable for peer review and publication in technical journals such as the Journal of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, Urban Forestry and Urban Greening, the Journal of Environmental Horticulture, etc.

### Proposal Elements

Proposals shall include the following sections:

I. Introduction. The introduction states the problem to be investigated and its relevance to arborists, especially those in the states served by the Western Chapter. A review of relevant literature with a bibliography is required.

II. Project or Research/Experiment description. Non-experimental projects (such as scholarly reviews) must include the methodology proposed to perform the project thoroughly and objectively. Research project proposals shall include the experimental design, the methods used



in the research and the analytical/statistical procedures proposed to evaluate the results.

III. Project Outputs. This section details outputs such as presentations at meetings, web pages, webinars, blogs, and articles (peer-reviewed and popular) that will be developed as a result of the project.

IV. Budget. The budget details how funding will be utilized including: supplies, equipment, dates, vendors, labor amounts, and any administrative costs. The Britton Fund does not pay salaries of the principal investigator.

**Timeline (extended):**

March 1, 2022 – Pre-proposals due (less than 2 pages text, plus rough timeline and budget)

March 31, 2022 – Acceptance/rejection of pre-proposals

May 1, 2022 – Final proposals due

May 31, 2022 – Project decisions from Britton Fund Research Committee sent to investigators.

July 1, 2022. Project awards over multiple years and possible extensions decided per approval by the Board of Directors

**Evaluation Criteria:**

- Relevance to industry and WCISA membership
- Scientific validity of the project approach
- 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
- Clarity, organization, and quality of the written proposal
- A clear plan for deliverables, such as publications, 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.

**James Downer,**  
**Chairman, Britton Fund Research Committee**  
**ajdowner@ucanr.edu**