2025 Emerging Creatives Student Challenge Grant

a2ru invites Emerging Creatives Summit teams to submit proposals for an a2ru Challenge Grant, awarded to interdisciplinary team projects that address a real-world problem or challenge. a2ru recognizes that the world's most pressing, complex, and open-ended challenges resist singular approaches and require collaborative, interdisciplinary solutions.

Requirements:
1) Project teams must consist of at least 3 and no more than 5 students from at least 2 different disciplines;
2) Some, but not all members of your team need to have attended the 2025 Emerging Creatives Summit. For a 3-person team, at least one member needs to have attended the Emerging Creatives Summit. For a 4 or 5-person team, at least two members need to have attended the Summit;
3) Project components funded by a2ru must be realized and reported to a2ru by May 31, 2026; and
5) 2 members of the team must attend the 2025 a2ru conference to present on their process, the summit experience, and their funded project as part of the poster/gallery session. The conference will be held at the University of WisconsinMadison on October 23-25, 2025.

Grant Award:
Project teams will receive up to $5000 to realize their project. The two team members who attend the conference will each receive up to $1,000 in travel funding from a2ru, as well as complimentary registration for the conference.
Deadline: Friday, May 2, by 5:00 pm EST

Notification: Monday, May 12, 2025

Criteria:

Awards will be made based on:

1) The clarity of the project's scope and goals;

2) The articulation of an effective interdisciplinary collaborative process;

3) The project's potential impact on its intended audience or users; and

4) The feasibility of your project achieving its stated goals.

A committee composed of faculty and staff mentors from the 2025 Emerging Creatives Student Summit will review applications and the accompanying materials.

Information Required for Completing the Application:

1. Grant Narrative (2-5 double-spaced pages): Make sure to address the following questions:

> a. Describe your project and the expected impact on your intended audience or users. How does your project respond to a local, national, and/or global need?
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> b. Describe how the project is interdisciplinary: what role does each member play in the work, and how does each member's discipline benefit the project? What challenges might you anticipate in this collaboration, and how do you plan to address them?
>
> c. How do you anticipate carrying out the project? Please provide an estimated timeline for completion of this phase of the project.

2. Project Budget: List all expenses and indicate those that a2ru funds will cover. Typical expenses include supplies, software, transportation, etc. If you have questions about allowable expenses, please contact us at a2ruconnect@umich.edu.

> PLEASE NOTE: Challenge Grant funds cannot be used to compensate members of the group for their own time/labor, but can be used to pay an outside contractor or consultant for their services.

3. Supporting Materials: Attach documents or links to help demonstrate the scope and goals of the project (e.g., drawings, videos, websites, etc.). Please limit supporting materials to 5 pages or fewer.

One team member should email a single pdf with all of the above (i.e., grant narrative, project budget, and supporting materials) to a2ruconnect@umich.edu, with the subject line: a2ru 2025 Challenge Grant application – "Your Project Title." Incomplete applications will not be considered.