

**CLEMSON UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, ARTS AND HUMANITIES**  
**AAH AWARD FOR RICHARD H. PENNELL SR. CENTER FOR**  
**RESEARCH IN DESIGN AND BUILDING**

**Request for Proposals**

**Program Rationale**

The Mission of the Richard H. Pennell Sr. Center for Research in Design and Building (CRDB) is to support research activities of the faculty and students housed in the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities (CAAH) School of Design and Building comprised of the School of Architecture and the Departments of Construction Science and Management, and City Planning & Real Estate Development for the improvement of the associated professional disciplines.

**The goals of the Center are to:**

1. Promote and disseminate high-level research and scholarship useful for practitioners and officials working in the fields influencing the built environment, as well research that is more broadly relevant;
2. Promote interdisciplinary approaches to understanding, building, and managing the built environment; and
3. Provide opportunities to faculty and students to develop important ideas that can leverage future funding.

**Submittal Schedule**

The Richard H. Pennell Sr. Center for Research in Design and Building requests research proposals from qualified full-time faculty by **February 5, 2021** in the format noted herein. Awards will be made of up to a total of \$25,000 per proposal and should serve as seed funding to foster the development of externally (nationally or internationally) funded research.

**Application Procedure and Submittal Format**

**Research Proposal Development Criteria**

The following criteria are to be adhered to in developing and submitting research proposals:

1. Eligible applicants and principal investigators shall only be full time tenured and tenure-track faculty within the academic disciplines housed in the School of Design and Building. Lecturers in the School of Building and Design can participate as co-investigators but are only eligible to receive a maximum of \$2,000. Faculty in other disciplines outside of the School can participate as co-investigators but are only eligible to receive a maximum of \$2,000.

2. The intention of the seed funding is to foster the development of externally (nationally or internationally) funded research. Projects that are focused exclusively on teaching, service or service learning will not be considered.
3. Successful proposals can include conducting preliminary data analyses, field-testing new instruments, or securing materials and equipment that will clearly strengthen an existing external proposal for funding.
4. Demonstration that the PI has or plans to submit a specific federal grant proposal is an asset.
5. Each proposal (items a – d) is limited to two pages, a two-page curriculum vitae, and a current and pending support document for each investigator. The proposal must include the following sections.
  - a. **Project Title:** Should clearly identify the research topic.
  - b. **Proposal Narrative:** Should describe the work to be supported by the grant, the purpose of the project and how it connects to the faculty member’s broader research interests in the discipline.
  - c. **Expected Outcomes:** Describe the expected outcome(s) of the project in terms of scholarship output, peer-reviewed publication(s), design/creative artifact(s) and/or student involvement.
  - d. **Timeline:** State a timeline for the project, from beginning to completion.
  - e. **Detailed Budget:** Provide an itemized budget; detailing amounts budgeted for travel, supplies, as well as an explanation of any matching funds secured. If this grant is to be used in conjunction with other sources of support, indicate clearly whether these funds have been secured, or are anticipated.
    - a. **Expenditure Exclusions:** Note while preparing a Budget, expenses that are not allowed include, but are not limited to Office Furniture or Equipment, Computers and/or Printers, Faculty Salary and Fringe Benefits, Personal Technology Devices, Laboratory Renovations or Upgrades, Tuition Remission and Facilities and Administration costs. Travel requests will be reviewed based on COVID restriction.
  - f. **Curriculum Vitae:** Provide current two-page curriculum vitae for all participating investigators.
  - g. **Current and Pending Support:** Provide a list of all current and pending support for each investigator. A fillable form can be found [here](#).
  - h. **Report:** If the applicant has received a grant from the Pennell Center Research Grant in the past, they must also submit that grant’s research outcomes report prior to applying for this opportunity. A fillable form can be found [here](#).
5. Pennell Center research grants are intended to assist faculty in the development of their research agenda. As principal investigators, tenure-track faculty are limited to one award every three years and tenured faculty are limited to one every five years.
6. All proposals are to be submitted electronically to the CAAH ADR OFFICE no later than **February 5, 2021**. Award Announcements by e-mail on or before **May 14, 2021**.

### Selection Criteria

The Center's Advisory Board is made up of the CAAH Associate Dean for Research and the Chairs/Director of the Departments/School in the School of Building and Design. The Board will review proposals in accordance with the established criteria below, and based on available funding, make awards by majority vote.

**Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:**

1. The extent to which the proposed activities and results enable future competitive federal research proposals;
2. Feasibility, clarity, and specificity of the proposed project and its significance to the discipline/profession.
3. Feasibility, clarity, and specificity of the proposed project budget.
4. The extent to which they involve funding PDBE doctoral students, who – if supported by Pennell funds – will receive the title “Pennell Fellow.”

*If other funds are used or become available during the life of the project, the Principal Investigator must inform our office to determine if a budget or scope of work revision is necessary.*

*Project dates are July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022. All funding for this round must be spent by no later than June 1, 2022. This time frame requires that all research trips be completed, and funds expended in time to be processed by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2022.*

**Outcome Assessment and Required Reporting**

Awardees will be expected to complete their research activities and the scope of work defined in the proposal between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. During that year, they will be asked to provide one public presentation of the current state of the work to the CAAH School of Design and Building, as well as a brief interim report in January 2022. The report template can be found [here](#).

The Center Advisory Board will review all reports and develop and submit an assessment to the grantors as constructive feedback. The reports will also be used to develop an annual Center report to its stakeholders. Failure to submit the report, or to produce acceptable outcomes, will jeopardize eligibility for future funding from the College. The faculty member must submit a report to the Associate Dean for Research and Academic Affairs detailing the status of the project awarded under this competition by July 31, 2022. The report can be found [here](#).

Any questions about the Pennell Center proposals should be directed to Associate Dean for Research and Academic Affairs, Winifred Elyse Newman ([elyssen@Clemson.edu](mailto:elyssen@Clemson.edu)).