

# COLLABORATIVE COLLISION @FSU



## Spring 2023 Program Guidelines

### Key Dates/Deadlines:

- Connector:** February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Concept Outline:** March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 5:00 PM ET
- Proposals:** April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 5:00 PM ET
- Accelerator:** April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Please direct all questions regarding these guidelines to the Program Lead:

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## A. Program Overview

Collaborative Collision is an interdisciplinary team development program designed to build and accelerate new research teams to explore complex solutions to complex challenges. This intensive, semester-long program connects researchers with complementary skills, expertise, and resources, guides these connections as they develop into collaborations, and funds promising new teams that have a clear path to developing impactful solutions, securing external funding, and establishing new areas of research, innovation, and creative excellence.

All teams —research or otherwise— are built on a foundation of effective communication. Researchers who seek to first understand, before being understood, are essential to building strong interdisciplinary research teams that can think more creatively, take greater intellectual risks, and ask the transformative research questions needed to address society’s most important challenges. At the same time, it is critical that interdisciplinary teams identify and secure adequate resources necessary to conduct their research and establish meaningful partnerships to enhance their research impact. To do so, teams must be able to effectively communicate both what they want to do and why to whom it is important.

Collaborative Collision therefore uses a strategic science communication framework— centered on the creation of a multimedia internal funding proposal— to build new teams that not only communicate effectively with each other but are also well positioned to pursue external funding from a variety of potential sources. Participants are guided through a structured process in which they work together to understand the Challenge they are trying to solve, what kind of Solution is needed to make an impact, the multi-year Strategy needed to develop that solution, and the specific Project that will be their first step. Using this logic model as a foundation, teams receive technical support from Collaborative Collision program staff to write a formal proposal, produce a short video pitch and project website, prepare for a live Q&A session, and compete for up to \$100,000 from the Office of Research.

## B. Program Goals

- Connect researchers with complementary interests, skills, expertise, and assets, through common interest in exploring complex, societal challenges.
- Guide the development of new interdisciplinary teams that can effectively communicate a shared vision of Challenge, Impact, Strategy, and Team with each other, potential funding sources, strategic partners, and the public.
- Fund promising new teams that demonstrate a clear path to developing impactful solutions, securing external funding, and establishing new areas of research, innovation, and creative excellence at Florida State University.

Collaborative Collision’s mission reflects FSU’s own Strategic Plan by encouraging high-impact interdisciplinary inquiry and ensuring that FSU is synonymous with breakthrough thinking in every respect. Collaborative Collision’s team formation and team building process aims not only to bring together researchers and creators from different disciplines, but to accelerate these connections into teams that can tackle complex challenges in innovative ways leading to positive, lasting real-world impact on the FSU community and beyond.

## C. Program Stages

Collaborative Collision is made up of three stages that take place over the course of a single academic semester. Each of these stages builds upon the last for an efficient process in which teams create multiple products in a relatively short period of time.



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## **Connector February 15<sup>th</sup> | 2-4pm | Turnbull Conference Center**

Collaborative Collision begins with Connector— a campus-wide research networking event focused on making connections between researchers with shared interest in exploring complex challenges. The goals of Connector are to select up to 10 complex societal challenges that the FSU research community will explore, and to form teams of 5-7 researchers for each challenge.

Challenges are selected through an interactive crowd-sourcing activity and shaped by strategic guidance from the Office of Research. Participants then have an opportunity to join multiple small discussion groups and connect with potential collaborators through their mutual interest in exploring these collaborative challenges. These discussions are guided by the Collaborative Collision Research Profile and facilitated by the Collaborative Collision team. At the end of Connector, participants are invited to join the Incubator team development stage.

## **Incubator February 27<sup>th</sup> – April 21<sup>st</sup>**

Incubator's focus is turning these connections into collaborations. Following Connector, each team is assigned an Incubator Guide who will facilitate weekly meetings. Through this process the team works together to understand the **Challenge** they are trying to solve, what kind of solution is needed to make an **Impact**, the multi-year **Strategy** needed to develop that solution, and why they are the right **Team** to lead this effort.

During the first month of Incubator, teams will submit a Concept Outline consisting of a list of key points they will focus on, and major questions that still need to be answered (see Section G.1, pg. 5). These Concept Outlines will be reviewed and up to five (5) teams will be selected as finalists for Accelerator. Finalists will then build upon their Concept Outline to create a video pitch and a written funding proposal (see Sections G.2, pg. 6-7), as well as prepare for a live presentation during Accelerator.

## **Accelerator April 27<sup>th</sup> | 6-8pm | Turnbull Conference Center**

Collaborative Collision concludes with Accelerator. This event showcases each finalist team through a live presentation in which teams premier their video pitch and answer a series of questions regarding their proposals. A panel of judges will decide how to allocate up to \$150,000 to launch these teams' projects, with one team potentially receiving up to \$100,000. Accelerator is an invitation-only event whose audience includes members of FSU leadership, key community members, strategic partners, and other distinguished guests.



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## D. Timeline



## E. Participants

Collaborative Collision is primarily designed for tenure-track and research faculty at FSU, however teaching faculty, specialized faculty, post-doctoral scholars, and professional staff are all encouraged to participate as well. This includes individuals located in Tallahassee (including the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering and the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory) or at any of FSU's branch campuses or facilities. Individuals primarily affiliated with non-FSU organizations may participate during the Incubator stage if invited by a Collaborative Collision Team or programmatic staff. Unfortunately, we are not currently able to accommodate participation by undergraduate or graduate students (including PhD candidates).

## F. Availability of Funding

The Office of Research has allocated up to \$150,000 to launch projects developed through Collaborative Collision and has authorized a top Accelerator award of \$100,000. **Teams may be offered an award amount up to \$100,000, however a minimum award is not guaranteed.**

### Please note:

- No more than five (5) teams will be invited to submit Accelerator proposals. These teams will receive an invitation from the Program Lead during the Incubator stage.
- Only tenure-track and/or research faculty with primary appointments at FSU are eligible to serve as Principal Investigator (PI)/Team Leader of Collaborative Collision awards.
- Awards will be distributed to the PI's academic unit for disbursement.

Sections G.2 - G.3 (pg. 6-7) provide details regarding content, format, and submission of Accelerator proposals.



## G. Accelerator Competition Requirements

**All competition materials must be submitted by the date and time specified.** Teams will receive a link to the Collaborative Collision submission portal during the Incubator stage. This portal will contain a webform allowing for text entry and/or file upload as specified below.

Please note that no more than five (5) finalist teams will be invited to submit an Accelerator proposal, regardless of how many begin the Incubator process.

### 1. Concept Outline (Due: 5:00pm ET, March 17<sup>th</sup>)

Concept Outlines must answer the following questions:

#### Challenge

- What challenge is your team exploring? **(Limit: 150 words)**

#### Impact (Long-term)

- What might a solution to this challenge look like? **(Limit: 150 words)**
- What does your team — and FSU — need to do over the next decade to be in a position to deliver this solution? **(Limit: 50 words)**

#### Strategy (Short-term)

- What goals would you seek to accomplish in one year if awarded \$100,000 **(Limit: 50 words)**

#### Team

- Why is your team well suited to solve this challenge? **(Limit: 50 words)**
- What additional expertise, skills, or resources will your team need to gather/recruit in order to help you solve this challenge? **(Limit: 50 words)**
- What outside organizations are you working with or seeking to work with? **(Limit: 50 words)**

#### Other

- What else will your team need to resolve prior to submitting a full proposal? **(Limit: 150 words)**

Concept Outlines will be reviewed by a panel led by the Program Lead and may be discussed with the Vice President for Research if appropriate. Up to five (5) teams will be invited to submit Accelerator proposals based upon their Concept Outlines. These teams will be notified within one (1) week after submitting a Concept Outline. Teams not selected as finalists will have an opportunity to receive feedback from the Program Lead.



## 2. Accelerator Proposal (Due: 5:00 PM ET, April 14<sup>th</sup>)

Accelerator proposals build upon team's concept outlines by asking the team to answer additional questions. Teams will also have an opportunity to revise their answers to concept outline questions, though they are not necessarily required to do so.

### Abstract

- Provide an abstract of your team's proposal including a summary of the team's long-term strategy and a brief overview of the proposed methodology and intended outcomes of the first-year project. **(Limit: 150 words)**

### Challenge

- What challenge is your team exploring? **(Limit: 150 words)**
- What makes this challenge complex and in need of an interdisciplinary approach? **(Limit: 100 words)**

### Impact (Long-term)

- What might a solution to this challenge look like? **(Limit: 250 words)**
- What does your team— and FSU— need to do over the next decade to be in a position to deliver this solution? **(Limit: 100 words)**
- Provide up to five (5) discrete objectives that will need to be achieved and describe how each will contribute to solving the challenge. **(Limit: 50 words each)**
- How will you know if you are making progress in solving this challenge? **(Limit: 100 words)**

### Strategy (Short-term)

- What goals would you seek to accomplish in one year if awarded \$100,000 **(Limit: 50 words)**
- Provide up to five (5) discrete activities your team will undertake to achieve these goals, including time frame, resulting deliverables, and individuals involved. **(Limit: 50 words each)**
- How will this position your team for the next step(s) in your proposed long-term plans? **(Limit: 150 words)**
- Where will your team seek external funding for your efforts and why will these sponsors be interested in your proposed solution? **(Limit: 150 words)**

### Team

- Why is your team well suited to solve this challenge? **(Limit: 150 words)**
- What other partnerships and collaborations will you need in the long-term? **(Limit: 150 words)**

### Supporting Information

- Provide a link to an online biographical summary for each team member.
- (Optional) Upload documentation of any existing partner(s) interested in collaborating.





## Budget\*

- Complete a high-level budget listing likely expenditures during the project period.
- Provide a narrative description and estimated cost of each item.

*\*All teams are expected to prepare budgets for the maximum award of \$100,000*

## References

- Upload a list of references in any commonly accepted bibliographic format.

## 3. Accelerator Presentation

All teams must present their idea at Accelerator on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Presentations are comprised of two parts, described below.

### Video pitch

Proposals must include a video that shares the team's vision and makes a compelling case for why it should be funded. **The video is an opportunity to showcase the Team's passion and to pitch their story in a succinct format that complements the written proposal.** Videos must be no more than two (2) minutes in length and will serve as the team's on-stage introduction at Accelerator.

Collaborative Collision staff will lead production, filming, and editing of teams' videos. Teams are expected to be substantially involved in developing the video's narrative and visuals, including contributing to script writing and potentially appearing on camera in the final product.

### Q&A

Following the video pitch, teams will be asked to respond to a series of questions about their proposal in each of the following areas: Challenge, Impact, Strategy, and Team. Teams should work with their Incubator Guide prior to the event to develop a response strategy that includes multiple team members. The final weeks of Incubator include dedicated time to prepare for the Accelerator Presentation, including an Accelerator practice session in the final week.

## E. Proposal Review and Scoring

Judges will evaluate all proposals using the criteria described below and provide a score between 1 (low) and 5 (high) in each section. A weighted average of these scores will be used to provide an overall score for the proposal.

**Challenge (25%):** Is the team proposing to address a complex challenge that if solved would result in significant social, economic, and/or environmental benefits to Floridians?

**Impact (40%):** Has the team described a long-term vision that is ambitious, transformative, and likely to position FSU to make significant progress towards solving the proposed challenge in the next 10 years?

**Strategy (25%):** Is the proposed one-year project an appropriate first step towards the team's long-term vision, and is it likely to position them to attract significant external funding?

**Team (10%):** Is this team well suited to accomplish their short-term and long-term goals, and have they identified and/or secured commitments from relevant partners needed to deliver a long-term solution?



Proposals will be submitted in advance of the Accelerator event, to allow the judges adequate time to consider their merit. At the conclusion of Accelerator presentations, the judges will convene to discuss the teams and select an awardee(s) and the amount of funding that will be offered. During this discussion, the judges may ask the Incubator Guides to discuss their team's project and provide a qualitative description of their development and teamwork throughout Incubator.

Teams that have been selected for funding will be announced at the conclusion of the event. Teams that are not selected for the top award may still be offered funding to address specific issues as directed by the judges. All final awards are contingent upon award negotiations between the Office of Research and the winning team(s).

The proposal judges will include the Vice President for Research (or delegate), and at least two senior members of FSU's faculty. A non-FSU member with relevant expertise, experience, and/or engagement in the subject area may also serve as a judge. **Judges may or may not be subject area experts, and it is therefore imperative that all proposals and presentations are communicated in clear and concise language, avoiding technical jargon.** Please note that due to the time frame and unique review process used, teams may or may not receive written feedback on their proposals.

The Office of Research reserves the right to fund some, none, or all proposals. Teams may be offered an award amount anywhere between \$0-\$100,000, however there should be no assumption that a minimum award is guaranteed, or that any team will be offered the maximum of \$100,000.

## F. Post-Award Reporting and Management

Awarded Projects will begin August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and must be completed by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

The selected team(s) will be invited to negotiate a final award with the Office of Research, including preparation of a detailed budget, scope of work, and timeline. Teams not selected for the top \$100,000 Accelerator award will be given specific guidance from the judges regarding use of funds.

The Office of Research will issue a final award to the Principal Investigator's primary organizational unit (i.e., Department, Center/Institute, College, etc.) upon approval of these documents. Projects will be managed by Sponsored Research Administration according to standard grants management practices, including payment requests and disbursements. Programmatic management will be provided by Office of Research, as detailed in the Accelerator award terms and conditions.

The selected team(s) are required to meet with the Office of Research at least once per academic semester during the project period. This meeting is an opportunity to provide assistance and resources, and to help the team position themselves to achieve external funding. Teams are expected to submit a proposal to an external funding source within 8-12 months of the conclusion of Accelerator support.

## G. Notice of Changes to Competition Guidelines

Accelerator is part of the Collaborative Collision 2.0 pilot program. The Office of Research welcomes and encourages feedback related to aspects of the program such as eligibility, award amount, proposal requirements, etc. Feedback may be submitted to the Program Lead identified on the cover and, if relevant and timely, may lead to changes to the Competition Guidelines.





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If the Office of Research determines it is necessary or beneficial to change the Competition Guidelines, this document will be updated using strike/underline to denote changes, and all teams will be notified of the change via the Program Lead and/or their Incubator Guide.

