

WiLS Ideas to Action Fund: Proposal Form

WiLS' mission is to help our members turn ideas into action. The new WiLS Ideas to Action Fund seeks to do just that – provide support for innovative or collaborative projects in order to help our members reach their goals and have a positive impact on the Wisconsin library ecosystem.

Proposals for the 2018 Ideas to Action Fund can be submitted through May 14 using the form below. Awards will be announced and funds will be distributed in June 2018.

In this first year of the Ideas to Action Fund, WiLS will award a maximum of \$25,000 (up to \$5,000 per applicant) and a total of 25 hours of WiLS staff time. We recognize that sometimes the barrier to completing a project is not lack of funds, but the lack of time to plan or think about process. Instead of or in addition to funding, organizations can apply for WiLS staff time to help organize the project or provide expertise in facilitation, survey administration or other project activities. Going forward, the investment of funds and time will be determined annually by the WiLS Board.

Eligibility and Requirements:

- Applicant organization must be a WiLS general member. Project Partners are not required to be WiLS members.
- Organization agrees to complete project in the timeline approved by the Ideas to Action Review Committee. Preference will be given to projects with a timeline of one year (July 2018-June 2019).
- Organization agrees to present about the project at a Wisconsin based conference or event.
- Organization commits to making project products/outputs available for reuse under a Creative Commons license or otherwise freely available.
- Organization will submit a brief written report to WiLS at the conclusion of the project.
- Organization is expected to lead the project; WiLS staff time, if requested, is to be used for specific activities (planning, facilitation, survey administration, etc.), not overall project management/leadership.

Please contact Stef Morrill, smorrill@wils.org, with any questions about the proposal process or requirements. More information about this fund can be found at <https://www.wils.org/ideas-to-action/>.

Lead Library 

Organization Name *

McMillan Memorial Library

Organization Type *

Academic Library

K-12 School Library

Public Library

Special Library

Other:

Is your organization a WiLS General Member? Don't know? Check the list of WiLS general members. *

Yes

No

Project Lead 

First and Last Name *

Brian Kopetsky

Title

Asst. Director

Email *

bkopetsky@mcmillanlibrary.org

Phone Number *

715-422-5144

Street Address, State and Zip Code *

490 E. Grand Ave Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Project Partners

Project Partners are not required to be WiLS members.

List any organizations you will partner with for this project. Provide the names of all members of the project team, within and outside your organization, and briefly describe their relevant experience/skills.

Wisconsin Rapids Area School District

Tina Miller: Principle Howe Elementary, extensive experience with children's education

McMillan Memorial Library staff

Colin McGinnis: Adult Services Manager, leads our libraries podcasting, recording and musical programs

Jennifer Bahnaman: Young Adult Services Manager, has extensive experience working with the target age group

Boys and Girls Club of Wisconsin Rapids

Chris Powers: Teen Director, extensive experience with the age group

Mid-State Technical College

Richard Breen: Electronics instructor also STEM Scouts leader for the last 5 years

Ben Joosten: Mid-State STEM truck coordinator, has also assisted the library in many technology related programming.

Project Title

Give your project a name. *

Community STEAM Kits

Project Summary



In one sentence, describe your project as simply as possible. *

Science / Technology / Engineering / Arts / Music kits made available for use by community non-profits.

Need and Audience



Briefly describe the problem or need you're aiming to address in your library and/or community. Provide specific examples of the target audience(s) for this project and any research (formal or informal) you've undertaken to understand audience needs and behaviors. *

The need for STEM education is pretty well known by anyone with an interest in education. For many of our educational and learning partners one of the barriers to providing these type of educational opportunities is the high cost of materials that are both effective and engaging to their intended audience. This project also reduces needless duplication of resources allowing available funding to be directed toward new opportunities.

Our target audience is tweens and early teens. Our hope is to engage students at this age and get them excited about technology and design at an early age and connect them with the programming that already exists for teens in the community.

As of 2013 the median household income in Wisconsin Rapids was estimated at \$37,552, lagging well behind state median of \$51,467. Indeed over 50% of school age kids in the greater Wisconsin Rapids area qualify for free or reduced lunch programs. This data suggests that finances are not available in many homes to provide technology or access to online offerings. Our STEAM Kits will provide free, equitable access to high quality tools and technology-enhanced learning through both the library and our local organizations.

Impact

How will this project's output impact the rest of the Wisconsin library community? Please specify how project outputs could be re-used or adapted by other WiLS members. *

We believe that the process of developing kits for and with the community and lowering the financial barrier to utilizing these educational tools will lead to both strengthened partnerships and better learning outcomes. These concepts can be replicated by any library that chooses and curriculum and programming materials will be shared with any who wishes to use them.

The fact that we are utilizing the library ILS for checkout and a model already utilized in most if not all Wisconsin library systems should make replication of our process relatively easy.

Plan and Timeline



Outline your strategy for completing this project and identify any major deadlines/goalposts. Preference will be given to projects that will be completed within one year. *

Our plan would be to take advantage of the summer months to work with the project team to best define what materials we would want in each kit. As the school year begins we will work toward acquiring the materials decided on and develop instructional guides and curriculum with a goal of having kits be used in the community in time for the second semester school.

Reflection



How do you plan to evaluate your project? What might success look like? *

At its most basic level success would be completion and dissemination of the kits and curriculum into the community. Taking a more outcome based approach we would like to see more students in the area choosing higher education and realizing that they have more opportunities than many of currently believe.

Budget Request



What is the total amount of funds you are requesting? (maximum request = \$5,000) *

\$4500

Budget Narrative



Describe the major expenses for this project, such as equipment, staff time, consulting, licenses, materials, etc. An itemized project budget is not required. *

At this time we know what our end goal is but we will need to meet more and discuss exactly what elements we will want in the kits. We expect to spend \$500-750 on each of the kits with a Science kit, Technology kit, Engineering kit, Arts kit and finally (because there would be many math components in the first three kits) our M becomes Music instead of Math. \$500-750 for associated books and software and \$500 set aside for consulting and training.

Staff time would be in-kind for all library staff, in addition the library would provide any needed funding to complete project goals not covered by the grant.

WiLS Staff Time

If WiLS staff time is requested to help support your project, indicate the number of hours and describe the skills or expertise needed from WiLS. *

At this time we believe we have a team in place that can bring this project to fruition. Going forward we may ask for some help with how to create a template that can be scaled by other libraries based on their resources and community needs.

This form was created inside of WiLS.

Google Forms