

# UVA Arts & Sciences SPARC Grants

## Request for Applications (RFA)

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**Deadline: March 13, 2026**

**Faculty Review Committees Meet: April 2026**

**Award Announcement: May 2026**

**Funding Period Begins: July 1, 2026**

*Based on your feedback, A&S Research has made improvements to its internal funding mechanism for the March 13, 2026 deadline. Please read the guidelines below carefully and reach out to the Research Team at [AS-ResDev@virginia.edu](mailto:AS-ResDev@virginia.edu) if you have any questions.*

A&S Scholarship, Practice, Arts, Research, and Creativity (SPARC) Grants provide funding to support the exceptional scholarship and creative activity of faculty in all divisions of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. There are two categories of SPARC Grants: **Research Grants** and **Special Project Grants**.

Visit the [A&S Research Intranet](#) for updated FAQs or email your questions to the Research Development Team at [AS-ResDev@virginia.edu](mailto:AS-ResDev@virginia.edu).

### Eligibility Requirements

- Tenure-Track and General Faculty on the Research Track in A&S are eligible to apply for either mechanism.
- All future grant submissions resulting from a SPARC Grant must be routed through A&S.
- Funding cannot be used for personnel effort outside of A&S.

### Evaluation Criteria

SPARC Research and Special Projects grants will be evaluated on a number of different criteria including the appropriateness of the budget requested.

[Please review our Frequently Asked Questions for details information about the criteria.](#)

## SPARC Research Grants

The purpose of the SPARC Research Grant is to extend your research, scholarship, or creative activity in a new or additional direction, accelerate productivity, and amplify the impact of your work. SPARC Research Grants may be *individual or collaborative*.

Collaborative grants are those involving at least two faculty.

SPARC Research Grants should demonstrate the impact that A&S funding will have on your work. Priority will be given to proposals that have a clear plan for advancing research impact, whether through extramural grants and fellowships, collaborative initiatives, or other strategies that strengthen scholarly contributions and visibility.

You can use SPARC Research Grants for a range of activities to support your work, including, but not limited to:

- Collecting preliminary data or developing novel tools or model systems;
- Visiting archives or libraries, doing fieldwork, or otherwise gathering material or samples that will advance your project long term;
- Adding a new activity to an existing project or previously reviewed proposal that will increase its competitiveness for external funding, enhance its path to publication, or accelerate its dissemination.

Collaborative Research Grants should help faculty build meaningful partnerships and pursue a collaborative project with other UVA faculty, institutions, or community groups. Additional uses of Collaborative Research Grants include but are not limited to:

- Holding working group meetings in preparation for co-writing scholarly publications or for co-designing a research agenda that will position your team for external grant funding;
- Establishing a track record of research collaboration that will position you for external, multi-PI grant opportunities;
- Connecting with a community partner or policymaker to co-design a research-practice partnership or program that will position you for external grant funding.
- Launching co-produced work (art, chapters, articles, or other publications) that could not be developed without the proposed team, ***and that is part of a long term collaboration plan.***

Reach out to the [Research Development Team](#) if you have a question about whether your activities fit the scope of this grant mechanism.

### Funding & Project Period:

Below are the maximum funding requests for each Division. Grant proposals with smaller budgets are also encouraged. **The budget should be proportional to the project activities and potential impact.**

<i>Division</i>	Individual Research Grant	Collaborative Research Grant
Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences	Up to \$20,000	Up to \$30,000
Sciences	Up to \$50,000	Up to \$75,000

Funding will begin July 1, 2026 and expire June 30, 2027 (12 calendar months).

Please see the [FAQs for information](#) about allowable costs. Funding cannot be used for effort for personnel outside of A&S.

## SPARC Special Project Grants

SPARC Special Project Grants support activities to disseminate findings outside of conventional academic means. Supported projects must have an exceptional impact on the field and society. Example of activities include but are not limited to:

- Developing a platform, such as a digital resource or podcast, to share scholarship
- Innovative public events with educational value
- Writing public-facing literature that is not a peer-reviewed publication nor the conventional mode of dissemination

Special Project Grants are highly competitive. External funding potential is not a requirement for these grants.

### Funding & Project Period:

Eligible A&S Faculty can request a SPARC Special Project Grant of up to \$10,000.

Budgets should be proportional to the proposed project activities. Proposals with smaller budgets are also encouraged.

Funding will begin July 1, 2026 and expire June 30, 2027 (12 calendar months).

## SPARC Research Grants - How to Apply

### Formatting Requirements:

- All pages must have 1-inch margins and be written in 11-point Arial font.
- Proposals that do not adhere to the page limits & formatting requirements or that are missing components will not be reviewed.

### Submission Instructions:

- Submit your proposal as one PDF file via the Airtable portal **by 5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2026.**

### Application Components:

#### 1. Title Page (approximately ½ page):

- Project Title and a list of Principal Investigator(s) and Co-Principal Investigators (Name, Department)
- Brief Executive Summary of your project. If applying to enhance a previously reviewed proposal, please also state the mechanism, proposal number, and review date.

#### 2. Project Description (4 pages maximum, excluding references): Please include the following sections and headings:

- **Background:** Describe your area of research, scholarship, or creative practice and its importance and impact.
- **Research Plan:** Include your motivating questions, methods, quantifiable goals for the project, and timeline for the project period. If you have already received funding from a previous Arts & Sciences grant competition, include a statement highlighted in bold that describes how this proposal is substantially different from the one previously awarded and whether that previous support successfully translated to an active and sustained research direction for you.
- **Advances Needed to Increase Project Impact:** Describe what you will do to maximize your project's impact. This should include targeting and submitting proposals to external funding sources (i.e. grants and/or fellowships, or concepts to private funders), long-term publication plans, and any other activities that will accelerate and sustain your project's productivity and impact.
- **Personnel Roles:** Outline the role of each key team member in the project and provide a 1-paragraph summary of their qualifications for contributing to this work.

*Components 3 and 4 are only applicable if applying to enhance a previously reviewed proposal.*

**3. Summary Statement or Reviewer Feedback Received:** Include copies of your Summary Statement or feedback from the funder.

**4. Response to Critiques (1 page maximum):** Summarize how reviewer comments will be addressed in the new submission.

**5. Budget & Budget Justification (1 page maximum)**

- Outline your budget needs in a list.
- For each budget line item, provide 1-2 sentences justifying why it is essential to the budget.
- [Visit our FAQ page for GRA costs for Fall of 2026 and 2027](#), and for more information about allowable costs.

**6. CV for each PI/Co-PI (2 pages each maximum)**

- Include information like professional appointment history, education, prestigious awards, grants, or fellowships received, and selected publications from the past 5-10 years and those underway that are relevant to the proposal.

**7. Current Funding Sources (if applicable)**

- Include a document listing other current sources of financial support available to the PI/Co-PIs. Please also list any discretionary funds such as start-up or retention funds currently available.
- Provide a brief (1-2 sentence) description of how each funded project complements or overlaps the proposed effort.
- If you have no current funding sources, write “No current funding.”

[APPLY NOW](#)

# SPARC Special Project Grants - How to Apply

## Formatting Requirements:

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## Submission Instructions:

- Submit your proposal as one PDF file via the Airtable portal by 5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2026.

## Application Components:

### 1. Title Page (approximately ½ page):

- Project Title and a list of Principal Investigator(s) and/or Project Team Members
- Brief Executive Summary of your project

### 2. Project Description (2 pages, excluding references): Please include the following sections and headings:

- **Overview:** Describe your special or unconventional project and how it increases the public impact or educational value of your scholarship.
- **Project Plan:** Include your motivating questions, methods, and detailed timeline for the project period. If you have already received funding from a previous Arts & Sciences grant competition, include a statement highlighted in bold that describes how this proposal is substantially different from the one previously awarded and the impact of previous A&S funding.
- **Audience & Dissemination Strategy:** Describe your target audience and how they will find out about your project.
- **Personnel Roles:** Outline the role of each key team member in the project and provide a brief summary of their qualifications for contributing to this work.

### 3. Budget & Budget Justification (1 page maximum)

- Outline your budget needs in a list.
- For each budget line item, provide 1-2 sentences justifying why it is essential to the budget.
- [Visit our FAQ page for GRA costs for Fall of 2026 and 2027](#), and for more information about allowable costs.

**4. Include a CV for each PI/Co-PI (2 pages each maximum)**

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