



# We're commissioning new research about cities!

Are you a faculty member or graduate student at a university or college in Ontario?

Are you interested in the future of cities and how they can be made more livable and sustainable for everyone?

**Apply by August 24, 2018** to our small grants program.

**Waterfront Toronto** and **Sidewalk Labs** in partnership with the **Toronto Foundation** are providing small research grants to support and enrich the creation of their Master Innovation and Development Plan (MIDP) for Sidewalk Toronto.

Sidewalk Toronto is a project by Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs to create a plan for a new kind of neighbourhood on Toronto's waterfront.

To apply for a grant, you must be a faculty member with a post-secondary institution in Ontario and work with at least one graduate student who will assist you in completing the research assignment. Funding will be available to support research expenses and student stipends, but not faculty salaries.

**Interested researchers should submit a proposal via email to [research@sidewalktoronto.ca](mailto:research@sidewalktoronto.ca) no later than 5:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on August 24, 2018.** Winners will be notified no later than September 10, 2018.

A question-and-answer webinar will take place on Tuesday August 21, 2018 at 12:00p.m., and can be accessed at [sidewalktoronto.ca/research](http://sidewalktoronto.ca/research)

## Small Grants

The Small Grants program will provide funding for both student/research assistant stipends and research expenses.

**Student/research assistant stipends:** For projects where significant work is going to be undertaken by a student or research assistant, Sidewalk Toronto will provide up to \$10,000 (CAD) per project to provide stipends for the student(s) or affiliated researcher(s). The proposal should specify the amount requested for the project, the proposed recipient(s) of the funding, and the amount of time the recipient is expected to spend on the project.

**Research expenses:** Sidewalk Toronto will fund cash out-of-pocket expenses directly related to research up to a sum of \$5,000 (CAD) per project. The proposal should specify the amount requested for the project, proposed uses (such as travel, license fees for secondary sources and other expenses in the conduct of primary research), and whether funding will be required in advance or may be provided as reimbursement. In any case, documentation proving expenses incurred will be required.

The grants are not to be used to fund the salaries of principal investigators. Applicants are expected to ensure that their proposals conform to the guidelines of their institutions.

## Deliverables

Each research grant will require four deliverables:

1. A written report summarizing the research and findings; the format and length of such report will vary by the topic of the research;
2. Any relevant data or source documentation that supports the findings assembled in a compendium to the written report;
3. A 400-word summary of the research and its findings, suitable for publication in a precis of the research projects; and,
4. A presentation of findings to be presented to Sidewalk Labs, Waterfront Toronto, the Toronto Foundation, and other relevant staff at a meeting to be scheduled in Toronto on November 22 and 23, 2018.

Specific details concerning preferred format and delivery methods will be agreed upon with each successful research team. At least one mid-point check-in will be scheduled, either by phone or in person, to assess progress and ensure that research is proceeding on schedule. Neither Waterfront Toronto, Sidewalk Labs, nor the Toronto Foundation will exercise control or oversight of the work. Final

deliverables will be tendered to Sidewalk Toronto not later than November 16, 2018 and each researcher will be asked to devote the time necessary to meet this deadline.

## Researcher rights and responsibilities

### *Research Ethics*

Researchers are responsible for ensuring that all elements of this activity are done in manner consistent with the *Tri-Council Statement on Research Ethics*. If necessary, based on their work plan, researchers are required to secure the approval of their institution's Research Ethics Board, or other such appropriate body.

### *Intended Uses by Grantors*

Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs intend to use this work as part of the development of the MIDP for Quayside. Uses could range from informing staff thinking to publishing sections of the research in the MIDP itself or in collateral material. In all cases involving publication, appropriate credit will be given to researchers.

### *Other Uses*

Researchers will be free to use their work in whatever way they see fit, including publication, patenting, and other forms of use, at their own cost and expense and without Sidewalk Toronto's involvement, subject to the license rights in the Appendix. Researchers are asked to defer their own publication of their work until Summer 2019.

*Please see appendix for further details.*

## Proposal requirements

Each proposal must include:

- Selected topic
- Project title
- List of team members including designation of Principal Investigator (PI) and institutional affiliation(s)
- Summary of proposal (250 words)
- Detailed description of the proposed research, including method, deliverables, ongoing hypotheses, and context for the work
- Proposed budget and grant request, citing whether funding is requested for research expenses, student/fellow stipends, or both
- CVs for all members of the research team
- 1-2 writing samples for the PI and/or the senior researcher

Additional materials may be submitted but will not necessarily be evaluated.

Proposals will be compiled and submitted as a single PDF document by email (to [research@sidewalktoronto.ca](mailto:research@sidewalktoronto.ca)). No materials will be returned, and all will remain the property of Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs.

## Research Topics

	Topic Description	Recommended approach and other information <i>Researchers should feel free to propose a different approach</i>
1	Outline how bicycle-counting technology is working in 2-4 global cities where it is in significant use; outline technologies, costs, and installation/operation considerations, how the data is used; demonstrated impacts of the data if any; and privacy issues and/or solutions relevant to the approach.	2-4 discrete case studies of individual cities, based on visits and interviews with users and managers.
2	Outline how Toronto’s population diversity, unique geography, and environment affect who is most likely to ride a bicycle and what factors are the most important — and which factors have not yet been addressed.	Literature review of cycling in the City of Toronto, as well as 1-2 comparable cities - recommendations for which factors to prioritize in encouraging cycling across all groups (such as design, education, subsidies, etc. ...)
3	A high-level inventory of the kinds of deliveries that a set of Torontonians who live in multifamily housing receive. Document size, shape, weight, speed of delivery; special handling needs (e.g., refrigeration); current method of delivery; how received (e.g., in person/left with doorman/left at locker); and other factors relevant to understanding the demand for a delivery system within Quayside.	Targeted interviews with people who manage mailrooms at a number of appropriate buildings.
4	Evaluate phytoremediation as an approach to brownfield cleanup, providing examples of its use in Toronto, in Canada, or elsewhere in the world; high-level assessment of how it conforms with existing Ontario brownfield cleanup approaches; and an evaluation of key implementation issues, including choice of vegetation (e.g., which kinds address which pollutants), and what must be done with grown vegetation that may be contaminated.	Literature review; limited interviews with subject matter experts.
5	Explore whether local retailers and store owners would make use of a low-cost neighbourhood delivery system. Understand how neighbourhood retailers (especially non-chain stores) think they could compete if a delivery option were available to them, and the contours necessary to make a system usable and desirable.	Mainly based on interviews with store owners and retailers about their businesses.

6	Identify the state and performance of modular construction for commercial and multi-family residential buildings in Ontario, with special attention to construction speed, waste reduction potential, cost of construction, and completion schedule performance as compared to traditional construction.	Include a list or similar assessment of the overall use of modular construction in Ontario and 2-5 case studies that allow detailed analysis.
7	Study the experience of alternative utility rates on consumer consumption patterns in Ontario and elsewhere in Canada. Document several case studies, including intention, expected results, and actual results.	Identify alternative rate programs of the last ten to fifteen years; interview and review documentation from participating utilities to assess impact on usage; create list of recommendations and lessons learned. Focus on electricity, but also include gas, water, thermal energy, stormwater, sewer, phone and IT to note any differences in usage elasticity.
8	Study the sensitivity of commercial building tenants to utility rates in space leasing. Identify whether utility costs are actually a consideration for office-based business leasing decisions.	Surveys and in-depth interviews of experts and professionals using conjoint analysis or other approaches to understand actual impact on behavior rather than claimed impacts.
9	Study the approach, impact and longevity of plug load management programs that commercial/ educational/research tenants or landlords have rolled out. Prioritize programs used in Toronto. If there are less than 5, include other locations, such as RMI and NRDC.	Interviews or survey of professionals at organizations that have tried programs and conduct a peer review to find published studies. Use expert interviews to gather data on unpublished studies, and request data to validate impact. Supplement review of published studies with interviews to learn if programs continued after study end.
10	Study whether tall-timber construction (including cross-laminated timber) has an embodied energy advantage over traditional construction of tall buildings.	Several case studies chosen for their ability to be compared responsibly.
11	Explore current building practices and codes in Toronto/Ontario to identify choices of building materials that may be obsolete but which continue due to inertia, habit, or misaligned interests. Identify improved alternatives and what barriers prevent their adoption.	Identify initial list of examples through expert interviews, and then conduct a deep dive to validate whether these are obstructions. Where possible, solicit ideas for how the codes could be corrected.
12	Identify Canadian models of community governance (associations, cooperatives, etc.) that allow residents to have agency and influence where they live.	Analysis of community governance models, successful outcomes, and forms of engagement.
13	Undertake a photo essay that analyzes Toronto's ground floor typologies, and conduct interviews to understand how each kind of ground floor space is performing in different	Will require selection of 3-5 neighbourhoods for focus.

	neighbourhoods across the city.	
14	<p>Conduct a scan of the most promising in-home and in-community technologies (IOT/Hardware/Software) related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. sustaining health / healthy lifestyles</li> <li>2. delivering health care services</li> </ol> <p>Consider technologies that support early-detection, health monitoring, personalized support, etc. and provide examples of their application where possible.</p>	Summarize findings and propose concepts for what an in-home and/or an in-community technology-enabled health kit could contain to enable improved lifestyle, early-intervention, monitoring and/or remote care delivery.
16	<p>Review a range of validated measures for evaluating quality of life/happiness/well-being at the neighbourhood level with a focus on interactive design for data capture; highlighting the pros and cons of a range of measures. Consider: the cost of implementation, burden on respondents, ease of public communication, appropriateness for diverse populations and potential for comparative analysis (across geographies and over time).</p>	Literature review. In depth interviews with a local sample of 10-15. An audit of examples in cities that reveal the methods of capture and material outcomes that changed how a city behaves or is designed.
17	<p>Explore how garbage diversion messaging has resulted (or not) in improving waste diversion rates. Investigate how behavior based incentives and/or providing a user interface with actual diversion and contamination can influence new behaviors. Understand dynamics between personal benefit (“I save money”) vs. greater good responsibilities (“I am contributing to a better city.”)</p>	Literature review and selected expert interviews.
18	<p>How can people be encouraged to treat shared semi-private spaces (shared kitchens, game rooms, shared tools and appliances etc.) as their own?</p>	Literature review, and interviews with researchers and managers of co-working and co-living spaces.
19	<p>How to create meaningful community bonds without being overly contrived or directive. Investigate the key drivers, scenarios, or conditions that create natural human bonds within a residential building or immediate neighbourhood. We are interested to better understand the classification of bond building factors and the spectrum of relationship types within communities, e.g. functional relationships with people who help us achieve daily tasks like watering plants while away versus social relationships with people who share a specific life stage, family, or professional dynamic.</p>	Literature review and interviews with experts in the field.
20	<p>Identify successful volunteer and social giving programs in Canada and globally that engage diverse residents in giving back to their communities and use innovative forms of engagement and incentives to participate. Compare and contrast motivations and outcomes of social giving versus volunteerism in Ontario.</p>	Catalog of volunteer and social giving programs, successful outcomes, and forms of engagement, participation and motivations, including analysis of trade-offs and choosing one versus the other.
21	<p>A history and analysis of retail/street commerce in Toronto. Key questions:</p>	Literature Review; expert interviews; photography.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How did the major retail corridors become established?</li> <li>2. How have they changed and evolved over time (e.g. Queen Street was small shops with living quarters above)?</li> <li>3. How did the rise of Eaton Center, St. Lawrence market and other marketplaces come about?</li> <li>4. What is Toronto's retail story? Were there specialized districts (fabric, garment, flowers, etc.)?</li> <li>5. What is the character of other commercial/retail corridors or neighbourhoods that they would recommend examining?</li> </ol> <p>A look at current trends:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the trends of the city today? For example, independent shops are dominant on Queen West but seek locations further west when rent prices rise.</li> <li>2. What is the landlord/ownership situation of small businesses?</li> </ol>	
22	Explore the concept of value capture to fund transportation infrastructure, including examples from Canada and Europe. Evaluate the feasibility of applying the concept in Toronto.	Literature review; select expert interviews.
23	Understand Toronto's innovative housing models. Inventory Toronto and Ontario development project demonstrate new housing typologies, tenures, financial tools, and partnerships.	Ontario market scan and in-depth local or regional case studies of development examples that demonstrate housing innovation.
24	Explore global housing innovation ideas, ranging from new typologies, tenures, construction, policy, and financing mechanisms that could be applicable in Toronto.	Conduct scan of international ideas, movements, and new startups that demonstrate innovation in housing.

## Evaluation and administration

Those proposals deemed most promising will be evaluated and scored by a research panel that includes representatives from Waterfront Toronto, Sidewalk Labs, and the Toronto Foundation.

Each proposal will be evaluated on five criteria:

1. Demonstrated expertise
2. Proposed methodology
3. Project team
4. Originality
5. Effective communication

Funding decisions will be final and are not subject to appeal. We regret that we will not be able to provide feedback concerning submitted proposals.

## Questions?

Please attend our Q&A webinar on Tuesday August 21 at 12:00pm, at [sidewalktoronto.ca/research](http://sidewalktoronto.ca/research), or email [research@sidewalktoronto.ca](mailto:research@sidewalktoronto.ca).

# Sidewalk Toronto Small Grants Program

## Appendix:

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### Research Ethics

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### Other Uses

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### Legal Compliance

Researchers will be responsible for ensuring that their work and efforts at all times comply with applicable laws.

### Personally Identifiable Information

Without limitation, researchers will be responsible for:

(i) ensuring that the collection, use, processing, storage and destruction of information gathered in connection with the work complies with applicable law governing personally identifiable information (including the Canadian *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*) and their institution's regulations relating to research on human subjects;

(ii) obtaining appropriate written consent or licenses for data gathered from any individual or from any third party for the materials or property provided and incorporated in the proposed research; and (iii) ensuring that in no case will Waterfront Toronto or Sidewalk Labs be provided with any personally-identifiable information, directly or indirectly through the deliverables, gathered in the course of research except in the case where research subjects have consented in writing to the use of their personally-identifiable information for the research and sharing with and use by Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs and, as applicable, released the use of their likeness, quotes and other pieces of information in writing.

### Conduct

At all times while participating in the Program and Program related activities, researchers will be expected to conduct themselves in a professional and collaborative fashion representing the mission of the Program.

### Intellectual Property

As a condition of the grant, each research team will give Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs the full right and license to use the deliverables, research and any associated materials for any purpose. Appropriate attribution will be made to the academic contributions by the research team members and their educational institutional affiliation.

### Independent Relationship

The parties conducting the research acknowledge that Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs are only providing funding for the research and neither shall be independent contractors and nor a partnership, agency, joint venture or employee-employer relationship shall be deemed to occur by virtue of the Program.