

Announcing the 2024 Catalyst Fund Award Recipients

Catalyst Fund

The Catalyst Fund logo consists of a stylized letter "C" formed by three concentric, overlapping arcs in blue, orange, and red, positioned to the left of the words "Catalyst Fund" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font.

We are pleased to announce the 2024 recipients of the Lyrasis Catalyst Fund. The Catalyst Fund is an award program that provides support for new ideas and innovative projects from the Lyrasis membership. It is administered by the Lyrasis Leaders Circle to expand opportunities to explore, test, refine and collaborate on innovations with potential for community-wide impact.

The Catalyst Fund was created to directly fund projects by member institutions that are designed to benefit the entire community of archives, libraries and museums. These projects were carefully reviewed and chosen based on their potential for scalability and maximum impact on all collections-holding institutions. Although the application cycle opens in January, staff are available to discuss concepts and will review drafts and provide feedback throughout the year. Potential applicants are HIGHLY encouraged to reach out to staff to schedule an appointment to learn more.



Building STUDY: An Open Solution for the Use and Adoption of University Textbooks, Towson University. Awarded \$25,000

Project Goal: As a university serving our underrepresented communities, many of which are socio-economically challenged, we hope to create a proof-of-concept for an open-source unified platform that will allow all of our parties (the bookstore, FACET and the library) to load in adopted course materials. The platform will also include a public interface which will allow students to easily browse for the textbooks they will need for their courses, compare the various options for obtaining them and then determine their total cost.



LibrarEaze: Empowering Library Users with Reading Disabilities, Benicia Public Library. Awarded \$24,850

Project Goal: Using visual storytelling, narration, visual cues and symbols, we will create a collection of short videos designed to support self-directed use of library resources. We will integrate interactive elements into the videos, such as clickable buttons or pop-up text boxes, that provide additional context or explanations to allow nonreaders to engage with the content at their own pace. By making the videos easily accessible and easy to understand, we will promote independent discovery of resources among nonreaders, diminishing the stigma that often accompanies the inability to read.



Contextualizing the Catalog: Increasing Access to Native Collections at the Boston Athenaeum, The Boston Athenaeum. Awarded \$21,500

Project Goal: The Boston Athenaeum seeks funding for a project to enhance the stewardship and accessibility of Native collections. This entails a comprehensive survey and the creation of a digital guide to contextualize and make these collections more accessible, addressing historical oversight and promoting a respectful representation of Indigenous knowledge. The project will develop collection descriptions and education approaches that accurately and respectfully represent tribal histories and knowledge.



If You Seed It, They Will Read It: Growing a Community of Readers in Juvenile Corrections through Access to Books, Audiobooks and Educational Devices, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library. Awarded \$20,130

Project Goal: This project would provide our local juvenile detention center with new materials appropriate for the reading level and interests of incarcerated children. The current library within the center consists of donated used adult books. Through our project, we will support this hidden community of young readers with access to juvenile and YA books. This project is a first step in building connections to incarcerated youth who need and deserve access to high-quality library services and collections.

Sandy Nyberg Award

Contextualizing the Catalog: Increasing Access to Native Collections at the Boston Athenaeum Awarded \$21,500

This year the Sandy Nyberg Award, named for Sandy Nyberg's pivotal role in the Catalyst Fund and her dedication to grants throughout her career, is awarded to the Boston Athenaeum and the project, Contextualizing the Catalog: Increasing Access to Native Collections at the Boston Athenaeum, with an award of \$21,500.

The Catalyst Fund application cycle opens every January. Lyrasis welcomes inquiries about the process year round. If interested, please reach out to catalystfund@lyrasis.org.



Headquarters: 3390 Peachtree Road, NE • Suite 400 • Atlanta, GA 30326
800.999.8558 • www.Lyrasis.org