

The Michael Brill Research Grant In Urban Communication and Community Design

The Michael Brill Research Grant for Urban Communication and Community Design supports innovative research that seeks to enhance the quality of community life by examining human communicative behavior in the context of the technologies and the physical environments in which those interactions occur. This research should address and connect theoretical perspectives from the fields of communication, design and the social sciences. Research supported by the Brill Grant may focus on how physical community places influence the mode, nature, and content of human communicative behavior OR use a communication lens for examining community places and human activity.”

This Grant honors EDRA member Michael Brill, whose work encompassed both design and communication as a way to extend his recognition that both fields are undergoing radical change.

Amount of Award: \$3000

Awardee Responsibility: Research results based on the grant must be presented at an EDRA conference within 3 years of the Grant’s award. The awardee must acknowledge the Grant when presenting or publishing work resulting from research supported by the Grant.

Application Requirements

Phase 1: Each complete application should include

Research Proposal (brief) One-page description of the research project that clearly states:

- What is your research question or issue?
- How your research seeks to understand how the design of environments influences communication, OR, how communication processes can inform environmental design. Simply communicating your research or communicating as part of the research process does not meet Grant’s intent.
- How the research concepts from these fields are operationalized in the proposed project.
- What research method(s) will be used in the proposed study.

Phase 2: If your phase 1 proposal is accepted, you will be asked to expand your proposal and submit a full package. The second proposal must be expanded to include:

Research Proposal (full) (two pages maximum)

- What is your research question or issue?
- The significance and contribution of this work to the body of knowledge.

- How research from the field of communication and a field of design are integrated to understand how the design of environments influences communication, **OR**, how communication processes can inform environmental design.
- How the research concepts are operationalized.
- A detailed description of the research method(s).
- Expected results
- How you plan to disseminate the findings.

Schedule and Budget – (one page)

- A schedule for your research plan with notes on any potential challenges.
- The budget
 - This grant must play a clear role in funding the complete research and include how additional funding has been obtained or will be sought.
 - The viability of the budget and schedule will be considered in the evaluation.

Appendices –

- Bibliography (one-page maximum) must include literature from both the communication field and a design field.
- May include Photos, figures, etc. that can help describe your proposed work.

Curriculum Vitae(s) or resume(s). The focus should be on demonstrating the expertise needed to complete the research using the research methods proposed.

What this grant will not support:

- Implementation of design or art projects.
- Development of research tools
- Theoretical reviews or conceptual pieces

Submittal & Notification Schedule

Questions - direct questions about the proposal to *BrillGrantCommittee@gmail.com*

Proposal Submitting - Submit proposals to the EDRA Michael Brill Grant Committee at headquarters@edra.org; with the subject line: Michael Brill Grant

Titling Files for Submittal – please title each file with the last name of the primary submitter followed by the proposal element (ex. Jones Appendix1). For Curriculum Vitae of additional submitters, title the file as primary submitter last name / last name person vita. (ex. Jones/Ohn vita)

Critical Dates (all submittal times are 11:59 PM Pacific Time)

November 1, 2020	Phase 1 Proposals due
November 30, 2020	Notification re advancement to Phase 2
Sunday, January 31, 2021	Phase 2 Proposals due
February 28, 2021	Notification of Grant Award
TBD	Presentation of Grant Award, at the EDRA Conference

Definition of Terms

Communication – Communication “is the discipline that studies all forms, modes, media, and consequences of communication through humanistic, social scientific, and aesthetic inquiry” (National Communication Association website). In this grant Communication is research that “focuses on how people use message to generate meaning within and across various contexts” (NCA Website)

Research Project – This grant is intended to fund research, which may include action or participatory research where the research is a substantial component. Design research with no communication component will not be funded, nor will communication research with no urban environmental element.

Urbanized Environment – Research submitted to this grant must involve environments that 1) are urbanized environments or 2) are located in community settings and are places in which people congregate.

Grant Approach Categories

Bullet-point examples are not intended to exclude other topics that meet grant parameters.

Research on mediated communication technologies that are integrated into community spaces and the impact these have on the design and use of those places.

For example:

- Digital screens and billboards as skins on building facades;
- Media Architecture- installations in which displays are integrated into building structures;
- Smart cities – cities that deploy technology into the built environment, such as providing wifi in public plazas.

Research on the use of mediated communication technology in community spaces and the impact these have on the design and use of those spaces. For example:

- Using cell phones in public spaces;
- Smartphones, smart glasses, spatial navigation and space augmenting information.

Research on community activities involving the use of mediated communication technologies in physical spaces and how this technology impacts the design and use of these places. For example:

- Large screens in public squares for concerts, etc.;
- Large screens in major interior venues;
- Blogging from community activities/events;
- Video record-making of community activities;
- Photos and their extension into media and social media.

Research on the design of community places and how mediated communication technologies and processes impact the design and use of community places. For example:

- Plazas, parks, sidewalks, parking lots, sacred spaces, concert venues, museums, monuments, historical sites.

Research on how adding communicative technology to physical places has an impact on the development and maintenance of communities. For example:

- Healthy behavior or communal activities among physically isolated persons;
- Security, technology and place;
- Flash mobs and other digitally generated gatherings.

Research on the connection/disconnection of mediated communication in community places. For example:

- The use of cellular, wifi, and internet technologies in public spaces relative to interaction within community and place;
- Communities without place.