BIG ◢IDEAS

2018-2019
CALL FOR JUDGES

Big Ideas is an early-stage innovation contest that provides up to $10K in seed funding, resources, mentorship and recognition to student-led, social ventures.

The Big Ideas Contest supports innovative and high-impact student initiatives aimed at solving the world's most pressing problems. Open to all 10 University of California campuses, and 2 campuses abroad, Big Ideas attracts an exceptionally diverse pool of undergraduate and graduate students across more than 85 academic disciplines. Big Ideas seeks out novel ideas then offers targeted training and support to social entrepreneurs as they navigate the earliest stages of the ideation process. In doing so, the Contest not only fosters a diverse pipeline of thousands of young innovators committed to social impact, but also ensures promising teams develop the capacity necessary to build successful start-ups.

The success of the Contest and the teams and ideas it produces is made possible by the 300+ enthusiastic professionals who serve as judges and mentors each year. Past judges have included industry leaders, professors, innovative thinkers, entrepreneurs, consultants, and project designers from one or more of our categories areas - including representatives from Google, Facebook, USAID, PATH, the World Bank, the Autodesk Foundation and many others.

LEARN MORE: bigideascontest.org | bigideas@berkeley.edu

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CAMPUSES

300+
BIG IDEAS

UP TO $300K
AWARDS

1500+
NETWORK

2018-19 CATEGORIES

ART & SOCIAL CHANGE

ENERGY & RESOURCE ALTERNATIVES

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

FOOD SYSTEMS

GLOBAL HEALTH

HARDWARE FOR GOOD

WORKFORCE EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

SCALING UP BIG IDEAS

Big Ideas Judges support the contest by reviewing proposals in a category of their choice, scoring them based on established criteria, and providing written feedback for improvement. All judging is done remotely in judges' free time via our online application platform. Judges can participate in one or both of our two contest rounds:

- **Pre-Proposal Round:** The pre-proposal round review period runs from mid-November through early-December. Pre-Proposal judges review between 6-8 submissions - each of which is 3 pages long. In this round, scoring emphasis is placed on how creative and innovative the idea is within its category.

- **Final Round:** The final round review period runs from mid-March to early-April. Final Round judges review full proposals - each of which is up to 10 pages long. In this round, scoring emphasis is placed more equally on potential for impact, implementation and viability.

If you are interested in serving as a Big Ideas Judge, you can visit our Judges' Page to learn more about the judging process and submit a brief "application" that summarizes your expertise and interests. You can also reach out to us at bigideas@berkeley.edu or (510) 666-9120 with questions, and we will be happy to follow-up with you personally.

PAY IT FORWARD by giving back to aspiring social innovators and entrepreneurs from 100+ disciplines

GET INSPIRED by novel ideas from the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs and changemakers from UC Berkeley and other top universities

GROW YOUR NETWORK by joining a network of 300+ industry leaders and professionals who support Big Ideas as judges and mentors