**Call for Proposals | 2019 LRNG Innovators Challenge:**
**From Passion to Purpose**

*"Growing up in Springfield, Ohio, I experienced and saw firsthand the power of great teachers to change people's lives. We're thrilled to continue our support for teachers who use their creativity and passion to improve their students' learning experience."*
—John Legend

THE CHALLENGE
[Connected Learning research](#) demonstrates that all young people benefit from opportunities to follow their interests alongside the support of peers and mentors who give them the time and space to create work that is meaningful to them. As educators, how can we support, showcase, and celebrate the powerful work that youth create when they have opportunities to explore interests and ideas that are valuable to them and their communities?

LRNG Innovators is launching a new challenge, inviting educators to design ways that youth can share their work with authentic audiences, build real-world connections, and have impact on issues that matter most to them. We seek proposals for programs, curricula, or projects that connect youth interests to larger networks, mentors, and/or forums where they can share their work and amplify their message.

PAST DESIGNS
Some designs that educators have developed include:

- [In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#), students, schools, and grade levels collaborate to explore news literacy by becoming journalists themselves, publishing their work in places and spaces that are accessible and meaningful to their intended audiences and purposes.
- [In Charlottesville, Virginia](#), teachers work in cross-disciplinary teams across high schools to support students in creating their own memorials while leading dialogues about who gets memorialized and why in the midst of national conversations about monuments and white supremacist violence in their own community.
- [In Bastrop, Texas](#), early elementary teachers work together across a district to support young writers in expressing themselves authentically and share with their work with their families and then in public spaces, including an outdoor gazebo, an online website, and the public library.
- [In New York City, New York](#), middle school students are supported in their academic work through a youth participatory research process to learn more about and take action around issues in their school and community that they deeply care about.
- [In St. Louis, Missouri](#), school and community storytelling partnerships support youth to create together and build community across historically entrenched racial and class divides.The possibilities are endless.

PROPOSALS
Proposals should be led by teams of PreK-12 teachers, and will benefit from collaboration between other educators and community leaders who work with youth in learning-centered institutions like museums, libraries, and afterschool programs. LRNG Innovators Challenge grants are $20,000 each; grants cannot be awarded to individuals, for-profit companies, or organizations not based in the United States.

ABOUT LRNG INNOVATORS
Through LRNG Innovators, John Legend's The Show Me Campaign and the National Writing Project partner to reimagine the way young people learn, encouraging new ways of learning and teaching in their schools or networks. Its flagship program, the LRNG Innovators Challenge, supports teams of educators in designing, testing, and sharing solutions that build the future of creative and connected learning today. LRNG Innovators was originally founded in 2014 by The Show Me Campaign, with support from the National Writing Project and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Learn more about [LRNG Innovators](#).

## Details and Eligibility

Successful proposals should be led by teams of teachers based in school/s and can benefit from collaboration between teachers and educators who work with youth in other learning-centered institutions. Proposals should use the Connected Learning framework to design ways that youth can share their work with authentic audiences, build real-world connections, and have impact on issues that matter most to them. The most successful programs will likely engage youth in planning and implementing the program in some way.

Proposals must include team members who can ensure that the team's ideas can be implemented, such as a school or district administrator, and members who can connect the team to an appropriate fiscal agent to accept and manage the LRNG Innovators Challenge.

LRNG Innovators Challenge grants are $20,000 each. If the proposal is successful, the award of grant funds will be issued through a contract to the educational institution (e.g., K-12 school or district or a local National Writing Project site at a host university), or a nonprofit organization or local community foundation that signs off on the proposal as the fiscal agent for the project. Grants cannot be awarded to individuals, for-profit companies, or organizations not based in the United States.

A Contracting Officer from the fiscal agent organization and a key school administrator will be required to sign off on the proposal.

Important dates for the 2019 LRNG Innovators Challenge include:

- Applications due: March 13, 2019 11:59 p.m. PT
- Awards announced: May 1, 2019
- Period of performance: June 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020
- Final report due: September 30, 2020

## Application Form

When you log in to the application system (apps.nwp.org), you will be asked the following questions **via an online form**:

## Project Overview

**Title of Project**
Provide a short descriptive title for your proposed project.

**Abstract**
In 200 words or less, provide an abstract of your project. If your proposal is funded, this may be used as a public summary of your project.

## Team Information

**Lead Team Contact**
Provide the following contact information for the Lead Team Member responsible for this project: First Name, Last Name, Title, Organization, Email, and Phone. This person will serve as the main point of contact for this proposal and the main program contact if the proposal is funded.

**Additional Lead Team Contact**
If applicable, provide contact information for an Additional Lead Team Member who will be mutually responsible for this project and serve as an additional main point of contact: First Name, Last Name, Title, Organization, Email, Phone. If you do not have another lead team member, leave this blank.

**Other Team Members: Name & Title & Organization**
Please provide the name, title, and organization of all other team members involved in this project. You will provide additional information about each team member in your narrative proposal. Enter each person on a separate line in the box below.

## Fiscal Agent

**Fiscal Agent Organization Name**
Name of the organization that will serve as Fiscal Agent for this grant, if awarded. The Fiscal Agent will be responsible for hosting, administering, and reporting on the grant funds over the course of the grant. The contract for grant funds will be made with the named Fiscal Agent Organization. See the FAQ for help.

**What type of organization is the fiscal agent?**
Please note that grants cannot be made to individuals, organizations outside of the United States, or for-profit organizations. Check any that apply.

1. School/District
2. University
3. Writing Project Site

4. 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization
5. Community Foundation
6. Other, please specify.

**Which Writing Project site?**
If your fiscal agent organization is a National Writing Project site, please select the applicable site from the dropdown list.

**Fiscal Agent Contracting Officer**
Provide the contact information for the person at the Fiscal Agent Organization who will serve as the Contracting Officer for the grant, if awarded: First Name, Last Name, Title, Organization, City, State, Email, and Phone. This person is typically a grants officer, business manager, principal, or Executive Director, and must have the authority at the FA Organization to sign contracts on behalf of the organization. [See the FAQ for help](#).

## Location of Proposed Work

**What is the primary location of the proposed project?**
If the location is spread across locations, provide the main location and then add brief comments to elaborate, if needed.

1. City
2. State
3. Zip Code
4. Primary Region
    ➢ Northeast (CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)
    ➢ Southeast (DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV)
    ➢ Midwest (IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI)
    ➢ South Central (AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, OK, TN, TX)
    ➢ West Mountain (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY)
    ➢ West Pacific (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA)
    ➢ US Territories (PR, VI, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa)
5. Comments? (Optional)

**Location Setting**
What is the primary community setting of the proposed work? Check all that apply.

1. Urban
2. Rural
3. Suburban

**What type of school?**
In what type(s) of school(s) is the teacher-led team based? Check all that apply.

1. Public School
2. Public Charter School
3. Independent/Private/Parochial School

**What grade level?**
What grade level(s) of students will primarily be impacted by the proposed project? Check all that apply.

1. Elementary
2. Middle
3. High

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# Constructing a Narrative

To apply for this grant, prepare responses to the following narrative questions. Once your responses are prepared, paste your responses into the application system text boxes (note that the system does not accept special formatting; please prepare your responses with basic text formatting).

Proposals will be evaluated by a panel comprised of educators from around the country and LRNG Innovators partner representatives. This review will be based on the criteria in this downloadable [review rubric](#).

## Innovation through Connected Learning

1. Briefly describe your proposal and the ways its design supports creative and connected learning opportunities for youth.

2. Describe how your proposal will connect young people to the opportunities, relationships, and resources they need to explore interests and ideas that are meaningful to them and their communities.

3. Describe how your proposal will design opportunities for youth to share their work with authentic audiences, build real-world connections, and have impact on issues that matter most to them.

## Context

4. Tell us about the context of this work and where it will happen. Describe your school and community, including demographic information and any special features of the school, students, or community that relate to the proposed idea.

5. Describe the ways your proposal attends to issues of access and equity within your particular context.

## Team

6. List the team who will be involved. Please include each person's role within the proposal along with a short bio. Make sure to clarify the ways that this proposal is teacher-led as well as how the input of youth are taken into account and/or how youth are involved in the proposals' planning or implementation.

## Spreadability

7. Describe how your proposal/solution to the challenge can have high potential for spread to other contexts, schools, and communities.

8. Describe what resources you will create that will help other educators learn from your experiences and create similar solutions to the Challenge.

## Timeline

9. Describe how your project will unfold over the 15-month period of performance beginning June 1, 2019 and ending August 31, 2020.

## Budget

10. Describe how grant funds, as outlined in the budget, will be used to support your proposal. Please be as specific as possible.

# Creating a Budget

The 2019 LRNG Innovators Challenge will award grants of $20,000. Successful budgets will show how grant funds would be used strategically to support your proposed solution. Budgets must total exactly $20,000. Please be as specific as possible.

Note that the fiscal agent may take up to 8% of the grant to cover indirect costs of hosting the grant. The fiscal agent organization may take up to 8% of the Modified Total Direct Cost Base (or your negotiated rate, if lower than 8%). A modified total direct cost base consists of total direct costs minus participant stipends and tuition/fees. In addition, no more than 10% of the grant can be allocated to direct administrative expenses.

Use the provided Excel Budget template provided as a download via the Application System (apps.nwp.org) to prepare your $20,000 requested budget. You will upload your completed budget as an Excel file as part of your online application.

# Submitting a Proposal

In preparing to submit an application, we recommend that you follow the link below to enter the Application System, and take time early on to familiarize yourself with the submission process. In addition, once you have started an application in the system, you will be provided with periodic email reminders about the upcoming deadline.

Within the Application Form, you will be asked for a proposal title, abstract, and information about key team members and your fiscal agent organization. This is required along with your Narrative and requested Budget.

The Application Form and Narrative Questions are also available as a template for download in the Application System (apps.nwp.org); these are provided for your reference to help you gather the information needed to fill out the online forms. An Excel Budget template is also available for you to prepare your budget. All documents are available at (apps.nwp.org).

Once you have completed the Application Form, Narrative, and Budget, you will be asked to provide the name and email address of your Fiscal Agent Contracting Officer and your School Administrator who will sign off on your proposal. The application system will send an email to the people you designate as your approvers with a link to enter the system, create a login, review the proposal, and sign off on the submission.

NOTE: Be sure to complete your proposal early enough to leave time for this approval step and final submission before the **March 13, 2019 11:59pm Pacific** submission deadline. To ensure success, please inform your approvers that they will be receiving this email from support@nwp.org and that they need to login and approve before the deadline. Sometimes these emails can get caught in spam, so please ask them to check their spam folder in the event that they don't see the approval request. If your approver does not receive the email, please ask the approver to email support@nwp.org to request that their approval link be emailed directly to them. You will receive an email notification when each approval is complete so you can return to the system and submit your application.

Steps for submitting an application:

1. Register for an account at apps.nwp.org.
2. Complete the Application Form.
3. Complete the Narrative.
4. Upload your Requested Budget as an Excel file.
5. Add contact information for two electronic approvals by your (1) Fiscal Agent Contracting Officer and (2) School Administrator.
6. Fiscal Agent Contracting Officer and School Administrator each review and sign -off on the proposal submission through the system.
7. Return to the application system and submit your proposal.

Optional: When you start your application, you may choose to add as many co-applicants to your submission as you wish by clicking on the link to "Add Members" within the system. Each co-applicant can either have standard access (for those that you would like to be able to assist with your submission), or read-only access (for those that you would like to just grant access to view your submission).

The LRNG Innovators Challenge is hosted by the National Writing Project as part of its Educator Innovator Initiative. Only applications submitted through the National Writing Project Application System will be accepted for review. If you have questions, please review the FAQs, and if your question is not answered there you may email us directly at educatorinnovator@nwp.org.

The National Writing Project Application System can be found at: http://apps.nwp.org/.