

## Shine A Light or Clear a Path for PALCI

### Executive Summary

The PALCI Board of Directors has established a PALCI Fellows Opportunity Fund Program which offers a unique chance for individuals employed by PALCI member libraries to “Shine a Light” or “Clear a Path” for PALCI. Members may submit applications in accordance with the program details below and will be selected through a competitive review process. With these dedicated funds, PALCI aims to empower its members to advance their professional development, contribute to collaborative initiatives, and enhance the collective impact of the consortium. By investing in the expertise and growth of its members, PALCI aims to strengthen its position as a leader in academic library collaboration and innovation.

### Fellows Opportunity Fund Program Purpose and Objectives

The PALCI Fellows Opportunity Fund Program strives to expand the work of the consortium by identifying and financially supporting PALCI fellows initiatives that will:

1. Recognize Individual Expertise and Contribution, and Develop Individuals Professionally:
  - a. Acknowledge and honor the expertise and dedication of staff members within PALCI member libraries.
  - b. Provide opportunities for professional development and skill enhancement.
  - c. Support career advancement and growth for individuals employed at PALCI member libraries.
2. Foster Collaboration:
  - a. Facilitate collaboration and intentional knowledge sharing among PALCI member institutions.
  - b. Encourage interdisciplinary and cross-institutional collaboration on targeted projects and initiatives.
  - c. Strengthen relationships and networks within the PALCI community.
3. Advance Strategic Collaboration Initiatives:
  - a. Address PALCI’s [strategic priorities](#).
  - b. Influence and advocate for PALCI-identified initiatives in support of strategic sharing.
  - c. Support skill development and innovation to meet evolving needs within the consortium.
  - d. Contribute to the long-term sustainability and growth of PALCI and its member libraries.
4. Enhance Collective Impact:
  - a. Amplify the collective impact of PALCI member libraries by leveraging diverse perspectives, experience, and skills.
  - b. Encourage collaboration on initiatives that benefit the broader library community and beyond.
  - c. Demonstrate the value and impact of PALCI.

## Shine A Light or Clear a Path for PALCI

### Selection Process

#### Call for Proposals

The Fellows Coordinating Committee now announces a call for proposals, inviting any individuals employed by member institutions to submit proposals aligned with the Fellows Opportunity Fund Program's stated goals and objectives. The initial call for proposals is open through August 31, 2024. Proposals submitted after this date will be considered on a rolling basis, depending on availability of funding.

#### Program & Application Details:

1. PALCI has set aside up to \$3,000 for its Fellows Opportunity Fund in 2024-25, and will allocate funds of up to \$1,500 per individual/selected initiative.
2. The first round of applications will be considered immediately after the initial deadline. After August 31, applications will be considered in the order they are received and as funds are available.
3. Individuals employed at PALCI member libraries are eligible to apply for funding to support initiatives or professional activities aligned with the Fellow's Program's goals and objectives, demonstrating how their use of funds will either "shine a light" on PALCI or PALCI-related initiatives, or "clear a path" for future efforts that support collaboration in PALCI.
  - a. Examples of eligible initiatives and activities may include but are not limited to the following: Attending conferences as a presenter, publishing articles with Open Access fees, participating in upskilling opportunities or technical training, traveling and attending meetings that advance PALCI priorities, or other activities that contribute to professional development, collaboration, and strategic advancement within PALCI.
4. Recipients will be required to share a brief report of their funded activities to the PALCI community either in a written format or through an open webinar.
5. Applicants will be required to submit **brief** 1-2 page proposals outlining their proposed activity or initiative. Proposals should include
  - A brief bio introducing the applicant
  - Description of the initiative or activity demonstrating the applicant's goals and alignment with stated Fellows program goals (2 paragraphs max)
  - Anticipated benefits of the initiative or activity for the applicant and the consortium, including any expected outputs or deliverables
  - Timeline / schedule for the initiative
  - Knowledge sharing plan (1 paragraph max, e.g., online presentation, report, article, etc.)
  - Budget request outlining actual expenses and time required
  - A brief email or letter that demonstrates support from your library's chief administrative officer for participation in proposed activity. (\*Note that this requirement is waived if the applicant is in the chief library administrator role.)

# PALCI Fellows Program



## Shine A Light or Clear a Path for PALCI

6. Proposals will be reviewed and selected by a committee appointed by the PALCI Board, with priority given to initiatives that align with multiple goals and those that demonstrate innovation, collaboration, and potential for impact.
7. PALCI will reimburse for or directly fund identified expenses of selected initiatives, as appropriate, and as determined at the discretion of the PALCI Executive Director.
8. Fellows awards will be recognized annually in PALCI's annual report and member meetings.
9. Proposals should be submitted via email with the subject line "PALCI Fellows Opportunity Fund Application." For more information or questions regarding the PALCI Fellows Program, please contact Jill Morris ([jill@palci.org](mailto:jill@palci.org)).

### Knowledge Sharing Component

PALCI Fellows are expected to incorporate a knowledge sharing opportunity with the PALCI community via written reports, presentations, or other means. PALCI staff will facilitate opportunities for PALCI Fellows to share what they learn or accomplish through their Fellows experiences with the wider PALCI community through webinars, conferences, or other forums as appropriate. Recipients will work with PALCI staff to schedule and distribute planned opportunities for knowledge sharing.

### Proposal Review

The Fellows Coordinating Committee will evaluate the submitted proposals based on the following criteria:

1. Alignment with PALCI's mission, values, and strategic priorities.
2. Potential for distinctive impact for PALCI member libraries and the broader community.
3. Quality, feasibility and clarity of proposal and stated objectives, timeline, and deliverables.

### Recognition and Attribution

PALCI will recognize the contributions of PALCI Fellows and their home institutions through various channels, such as newsletters, press releases, and social media platforms. Additionally, PALCI Fellows will be expected to acknowledge their affiliation with PALCI in any publications or presentations resulting from their projects.

### Ongoing Program Administration:

#### Evaluation and Feedback

The Fellows Coordinating Committee will conduct regular evaluations of the Fellows Opportunity Fund Program to assess its effectiveness in meeting its goals and objectives. Feedback from PALCI Fellows, participating institutions, and other stakeholders will be solicited and used to inform program improvements and future iterations.