



UBC VANCOUVER 2025 CAMPUS AS A LIVING LAB FUND COMPETITION

Information Session
September 16, 2025

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We acknowledge that UBC's Vancouver campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) People.

UBC's activities take place on Indigenous lands throughout British Columbia and beyond.



UBC CAMPUS AS A LIVING LAB

UBC Campus as a Living Lab (CLL) leverages UBC's academic and operational capabilities to respond to global sustainability challenges in our local context, in alignment with UBC's Strategic Plan: Creating vibrant, sustainable environments that enhance wellbeing and excellence for people in their places at UBC and beyond.

CLL Fund Competitions

Provide seed funding to support innovative, interdisciplinary living lab projects co-led by UBC faculty and staff. Competition projects advance sustainability through academic-operational collaboration and use the campus as a testbed for real-world impact.

Vision

We aspire to be a globally-impactful hub for living lab research, demonstration, learning and knowledge exchange that helps address the world's most urgent sustainability challenges.

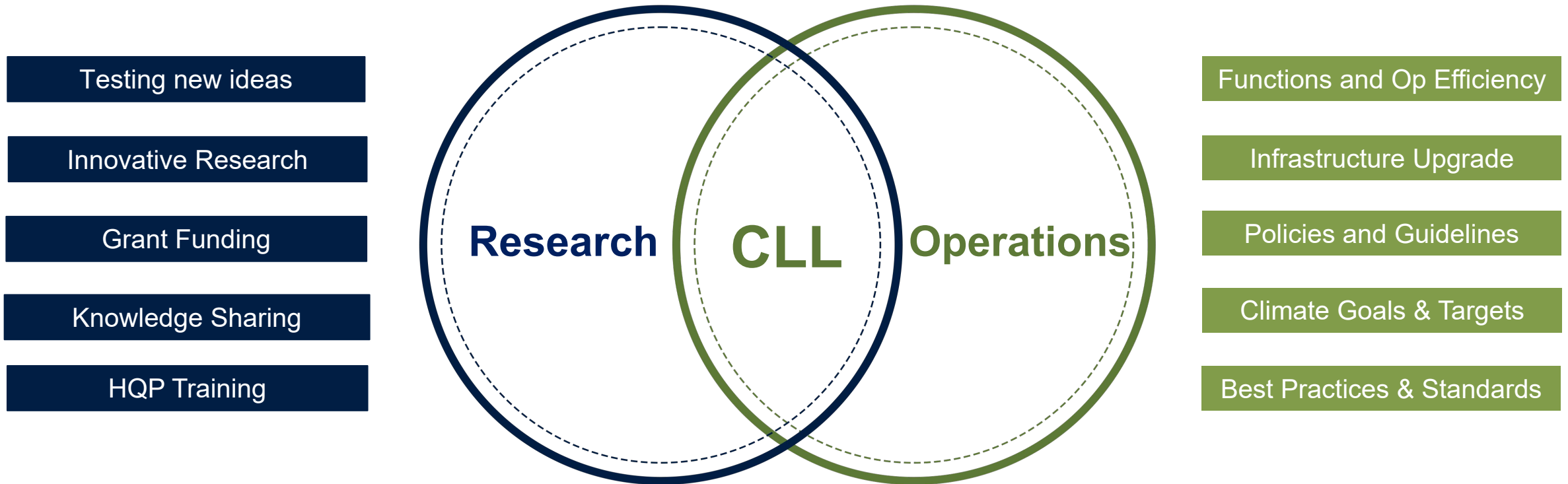
Purpose

As a leading public research university, we have a commitment and responsibility to leverage our academic and operational capabilities to respond to global problems through our local context.

Mission

We provide a collaborative framework for researchers, students, operations staff and external partners to leverage the campus to explore, develop and test new ideas, and to share the knowledge gained from these experiences.

UBC CAMPUS AS A LIVING LAB



Core Values



Sustainability: We support and develop projects that contribute to ecological, social and economic sustainability, address the climate and biodiversity crises, and are aligned with the long-term strategic vision for the UBC campus and its community.



Equity & Inclusion: We embed justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in all our projects and in our engagement with UBC community members and external partners.



Transparency: We build collaborations and partnerships through clear and open processes, and ensuring fair, ethical, consensual and transparent engagement.



Collaborative Learning: We embrace participatory and reciprocal ways of learning and sharing knowledge, reflective of the different communities, knowledge systems and experiences of those engaged in our projects.

UBC LIVING LAB PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS



Innovation

- New ways of doing things
- New approaches or solutions
- Significant improved ideas and processes
- Change making at UBC and beyond



Research Excellence

- New insights contributing to a body of knowledge
- Clear research questions and robust methods
- Future inquiry and research potential



Relevance to UBC Campus and Community

- Supports UBC's sustainability and strategic goals
- Drives positive change across UBC campus and communities
- Focuses on the "what," "how," and "why" of implementation at UBC



Student Engagement and Learning Opportunities

- Active student engagement in research, design, or implementation
- Interdisciplinary and real-world learning
- Builds student skills and leadership experience



Potential Impacts and Knowledge Sharing

- Potential for replication or scaling beyond UBC
- Knowledge shared with external partners or networks
- Supports long-term transformation

PAST CLL FUND COMPETITIONS



UBC Vancouver

2020 Competition (launch)

- Awarded 4 projects
- Total funding \$200,000

2021 Competition

- Awarded 4 projects
- Total funding \$200,000

2022 Competition

- Awarded 6 projects
- Total funding \$250,000

2023 Grand Challenge Competition (both campuses)

- Awarded 3 projects
- Total funding \$600,000

UBC Okanagan

2022 Competition (launch)

- Awarded 2 projects
- Total funding: \$100,000

2023 Competition

- Awarded 2 projects
- Total funding: \$100,000

2024 Competition

- Awarded 2 projects
- Total funding: \$100,000

2025 UBC VANCOUVER

Campus as a Living Lab Fund Competition



2025 UBC VANCOUVER CLL FUND COMPETITION



Projects must demonstrate alignment with CLL principles and contribute to sustainability transformations at UBC Vancouver.

Total Funding Available: \$500,000

Two Funding Streams:

- Small Projects: \$10,000–\$30,000/project
- Large Projects: \$50,000–\$100,000/project

Funding Allocation: No fixed distribution—awarded based on proposal quantity and quality.

Project Timeline: March 2026 – March 2028

- Projects may be shorter but have up to 2 years to complete.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE



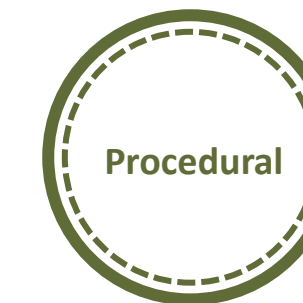
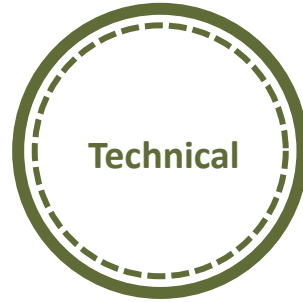
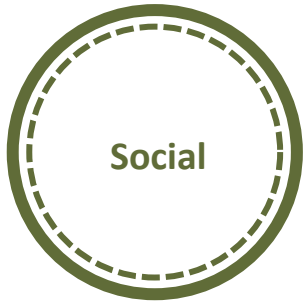
Application Period	Competition Opened	Sep 1, 2025
	General Information Session	Sep 16, 2025
	NOI Submission Deadline	Sep 30, 2025
	Application Information Session	Oct 7, 2025
	Application Submission Deadline	Nov 28, 2025
Evaluation Period	Peer Review and Shortlisting	Dec 2025
	Shortlisted Interviews (Large Project Stream)	Jan 2026
	Final Decision and Result	Feb 2026
Project Period	Project Start and Duration	Mar 2026 – Mar 2028



NOI due
September 30, 2025
@ 11:59 pm

Full Application due
November 28, 2025
@ 11:59 pm

COMPETITION THEME - CAMPUS AS A LIVING LAB”



Projects are:

- Innovative, bold, creative
- Collaborative and interdisciplinary
- Responsive to sustainability challenges
- Grounded in real-world local contexts
- Agent of change for our campus/ community
- Aligned with UBC’s strategic priorities
- Supportive of institutional learning, knowledge sharing and long-term impact

CLL projects are co-developed and co-led by a faculty lead and staff lead:

- Leads are equal partners from idea to delivery: joint planning, shared decision-making execution and collective action
- Leads leverage UBC’s academic and institutional/operational expertise
- Leads ensure innovation, academic research excellence, relevance to UBC campus and community, student learning opportunities and potential for off-campus impacts and knowledge sharing



ELIGIBILITY - PROJECT LEADS AND TEAM



Project Leads:

- Faculty Lead: full, Associate or Assistant Professor (tenure track)
- Staff Lead: permanent, full-time university staff

Leads must be in different department/disciplines/units relevant to the project

Additional Project Lead (Optional):

- Another UBC Faculty or staff member, Adjunct Professor, Post-doctoral Fellow, Research Associate

Project Team Members:

- Students, PDFs/RAs, other UBC faculty or staff, or external partners

EXTERNAL PARTNERS



External Partners:

- Public, private or community organizations
- Collaborators from UBC Okanagan, faculty and/or staff

Indigenous Community Partners:

- Collaborations must be grounded in relationships and led by community
- UBC Leads must demonstrate an established relationship as well as community support and involvement in the project

ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS



UBC Vancouver Campus

Associated UBC facilities in the Lower Mainland:

- Academic campus and residential neighborhoods at Point Grey, including UBC Farm and Botanical Gardens
- UBC Robson Square in downtown Vancouver
- Alex Fraser and Malcom Knapp Research Forests
- Dairy Education and Research Centre in Agassiz
- Additional UBC facilities at medical campuses and in the Vancouver Downtown Eastside

Projects may include additional off-campus sites in collaboration with regional partners or cross-campus collaborations.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES



Eligible Expenses

- ✓ **Student Support:** UBC undergrad/graduate student compensation
- ✓ **Staffing:** Grant-funded project staff, third-party contractors (partial)
- ✓ **Equipment & Materials:** Purchase/rental for project delivery
- ✓ **Event & Knowledge Sharing:** Workshops, knowledge exchange, stakeholder engagement
- ✓ **Project Execution:** Indigenous Elder honoraria, site prep, data collection, evaluation, transport/incidental expenses

Ineligible Expenses

- ✗ **Core Salaries:** Regular budget-funded UBC staff or faculty salaries
- ✗ **Operational Overhead:** Indirect or administrative costs, UBC or partner operational costs, facilities
- ✗ **Curriculum/coursework development**
- ✗ **Journal fees, conference registration and travel**

Project-specific Approvals

Project Leads are responsible for securing the appropriate approvals for their specific project activities:

- academic departmental approval, research ethics, facilities approvals and development permits, site-based approvals and others

Approval Processes

Project need to identify the required approvals and include plan to achieve them in the application but do not need the approvals themselves.

Exception: approval from any Indigenous Community Partners, which must be included in the application.

CLL FUND COMPETITION TIMELINE



Launch September 1, 2025

Two-phase application process:

- **Notice of Intent:** Tuesday, September 30
- **Full Application:** Friday, November 28

Two-phase review process:

- **Peer review:** December 2025
- **Shortlisted project interviews:** January 2026
- **Final decisions:** February 2026

Projects start March 2026



Notice of Intent Submission
(Sep 30th)

Application Info Session
(Oct 7th@10am)

**Project team Q&A and
application assistance**

Application Submission
(Nov 28th)

Peer Review
(Dec 2025)

**Shortlisted Large Project
Interview (Jan 2026)**

Funding Decision
(Feb 2026)

2025 CLL FUND COMPETITION RESOURCES AND PORTAL

2025 UBC Vancouver CLL Competition page:

<https://livinglabs.ubc.ca/2025>



Downloadable forms:

- Competition Guidelines (PDF)
- NOI Form (fillable PDF)

NOI Submittal Portal

<https://livinglabs.ubc.ca/apply>



NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) OVERVIEW



Project Stream: Select small or large project stream

Project Name: Title of proposed project

Project Faculty Lead: Name, title, department, email

Project Staff Lead: Name, title, department, email

Project Location: UBC Vancouver sites/Facilities

Project Description : Overview & key objectives

Campus as a Living Lab Response: Why your project is suited for CLL funding and alignment with CLL Characteristics

UBC LIVING LAB PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS



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NOI SUBMITTAL



Access NOI and Submission Page: <https://livinglabs.ubc.ca/apply>



Home / Programs and Initiatives / Apply - 2025 UBC Vancouver CLL Fund Competition

Overview

The 2025 UBC Vancouver Campus as a Living Lab Fund Competition opens on September 1, 2025.

Please review the CLL Fund Competition [Guidelines](#) for project requirements and other competition information.

NOTICE OF INTENT

All projects applying to the 2025 UBC Vancouver CLL Fund Competition must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI). The NOI is non-competitive and will be used to facilitate communication during the competition, register for information sessions, and select peer reviewers.

Applicants will need Adobe Acrobat Reader or Adobe Acrobat Pro to access and complete the NOI form. Applicants should download and save the NOI form to their computer to fill in. Do not complete via a web browser, as some of the form fields may not work correctly. Once you have completed the NOI form, please upload the PDF using the link below. Only one Project Lead should upload the application on behalf of the team.

The NOI submission deadline is 11:59 pm on September 30, 2025.

DOWNLOAD NOI

SUBMIT NOI →

- Download the NOI template
- Fill out the PDF – requires Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader (note do not fill out form in the web browser)
- Submit via the online portal

NOI DEADLINE:

**11:59 pm on Tuesday,
September 30**

NOI SUBMITTAL – NEXT STEPS



After submitting the NOI:

- Portal will send an automatic confirmation email
- CLL Team will review the NOI and follow up with any questions
- CLL Team will send the Project Leads an email with the full application form and registration link for Application Information Session

CLL Fund Competition Application Info Session: Tuesday, October 7, 10-11 am

CLL Team is available for questions and consultation as applications are developed

Email CLL.team@ubc.ca

APPLICATION FORM OVERVIEW



Project Information: Project Stream, Name, Faculty Lead, Staff Lead, Additional Lead, Project location, Team and Roles.

Project description: Project overview and objectives and 5 freeform sub-sections for evaluation:

1. Innovation
2. Research Excellence
3. Relevance to UBC Campus and Communities
4. Student Engagement and Learning Opportunities
5. Potential Impacts and Knowledge Sharing

Project Activities: Project workplan with tentative timelines

Project Finances: Project high-level budget items and additional Funding Source Description

Appendix (optional): Up to 4 images, tables, graphs, etc.

APPLICATION SUBMITTAL



- Application form and submission portal link will be emailed to Project Leads
- Fill out the Application PDF – requires Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader
- One Project Lead in charge of each submission
- Submit via the online portal

APPLICATION SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: 11:59 pm on Friday, November 28

APPLICATION SUBMITTAL – NEXT STEPS



After submitting your full application:

- Portal will send an automatic confirmation email
- CLL Team will review the application and follow up with any questions
- CLL Team will send your application for peer review
- Shortlisted large project teams will be notified for interviews

Shortlisted large project interview (January 2026)

Funding decision and award announcement (February 2026)

CLL Team is available for any questions regarding the review and decision process

Email CLL.team@ubc.ca

PROJECT SET UP AND EXECUTION



February 2026: Competition results will be announced

Project Set up:

CLL Team will arrange agreements, communicate reporting and engagement requirements, and set up accounts and financial transfers with Project Leads

Small projects:

- Full funding allocation will be awarded in March 2026

Large projects:

- 75% of funding allocation will be awarded in March 2026
- 25% holdback will be awarded at completion of project and submittal of final reporting

CLL PROJECT EXAMPLES



Campus Trees, Microbes and Insects (CTMAIN)

Biodiversity



Science + Botanical Garden

Explore new techniques for mapping tree microbiomes and the impacts on tree health, biodiversity and resiliency; expand info in campus tree database and guidance for selecting tree species.

Community Food Hub at UBC

Wellbeing



SPPH + UBC Wellbeing

Community-engaged research approach to food insecurity on campus; launched a student-run Food Hub Market at the CIRS Building.

Mind in Motion at UBC

Mental Health



Kinesiology + Clinical Services

Explored exercise as a treatment for depression and established a successful mental health and exercise program with UBC Counselling and the Bodyworks Fitness Centre.

Indigenous Centred Campus Recreation

Indigenous Recreation



Kinesiology + Indigenous Education

Reimagined campus recreation by centering Indigenous knowledge and recreation; created the Indigenous-Centered Campus Recreation Advisory Committee.

CLL PROJECT EXAMPLES (CONT.)



MycoToilet: Mycelium-Based Composting Toilet at UBC Botanical Garden

School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture + Botanical Garden



Public Launch Event

Date: September 26, 2025

Time: 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Location: UBC Botanical Garden

More info:

<https://www.biogenicarch.ca/bg-mycotoilet>

2025 UBVC VANCOUVER CLL FUND COMPETITION INFORMATION



livinglabs.ubc.ca/2025

- Competition Guidelines
- NOI Submission Portal
- Info session registration
- FAQ's



[**livinglabs.ubc.ca**](https://livinglabs.ubc.ca)

- News & Events
- Past projects
- UBC Partners
- FAQ's

Questions? Email [**CLL.Team@ubc.ca**](mailto:CLL.Team@ubc.ca)



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SUSTAINABILITY HUB

