Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Pericles Fund?

Eugene M. Lang ’38 and the Board of Managers of Swarthmore College created the Swarthmore Pericles Fund in the spring of 2005 to support groups of Swarthmore students who propose and implement innovative, visionary social and civic action projects. The scope and sustainability of Pericles Fund Projects should advance solutions for the issues in question and promote recognition of students' motivation and capability to address major issues effectively. The Pericles Fund is managed by the Lang Center.

What is its purpose?

The purpose of the Pericles Fund is to provide funding for social and civic action projects of substantial scope that are designed and implemented by groups of Swarthmore students.

Who may apply?

Any team of two or more currently enrolled Swarthmore students may apply. Teams should consist of students from different classes such that the team is sustainable for at least three years.

- The majority of team members should be available to do sustained work on the project for a minimum 9 consecutive months.
- All team members should view work on the project as their primary co-curricular activity.
- Seniors and rising seniors are eligible to apply as long as the remaining team includes at least two currently enrolled Swarthmore College students who will continue the work of the Project after the seniors graduate.
- Graduating seniors may remain on the team for up to a year after graduation. However, they may receive a stipend for living expenses only through Labor Day following commencement.
- Teams may include students who plan foreign study at some point during planning or implementation of the Project. However, there must be at least two currently enrolled team members on campus who plan to continue work on the Project while other members are abroad.
- Ideally, teams will reflect the diversity of the Swarthmore College community.
- Lang Opportunity Scholars and recipients of certain other named Swarthmore College scholarships may participate in a Project Pericles Project, and, with prior approval of the Project Pericles advisor, participants may collaborate on a Project Pericles Project to meet their project requirements.

What constitutes a fundable project?

Projects should be visionary in scope and groundbreaking in practice. They may have a regional, national, or international focus whose major purpose is to effect civic or social change through
advocacy, activism, and/or direct service. Pericles Fund Projects must exemplify best practices for service and social change.

While successful projects may include important direct service activities, applicant teams should bear in mind that their overall purpose should be to create a project whose primary goal is fundamental social change that relieves the causes and conditions that create need in a community receiving direct services.

Project activities may include:

- Education and creation of educational materials and programs
- Community organizing
- Lobbying and other legislative efforts
- Direct action such as demonstrations
- Provision of direct services

**What do you mean by "social change?"**

Social change comes in many forms. Project Pericles grants support projects to work on entrenched social problems to change:

- Laws, policies, and practices
- Public knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs
- Institutional responses
- Distribution of goods and resources
- Any other factors that are the root causes of those problems

**How do we apply?**

The Pericles Fund has a multi-step application process. The first step is to submit a Concept Letter about the proposed project to the Project Pericles Fund Advisor, Jennifer Magee (jmagee1@swarthmore.edu). The concept letters will be reviewed; teams may be invited to apply for seed funding for summer piloting and additional research. Those teams who received seed funding will be invited to submit a formal application. The Project Pericles Fund Committee will invite select teams to interview. Shortly after the interview date, the teams will be notified of their standing.

**What is included in the Concept Letter?**

This is a letter of up to 1500 words that outlines the basic ideas and actions that would constitute your Pericles Fund Project. The statement should describe:

- The vision and scope of Project to foster lasting social change
- Capability of the student team as evidenced by related experience and study
- Processes and methods by which the Project will be implemented
- Feasibility
- Evidence of community partner support
- Impact of the program in terms of concrete, measurable outcomes
- Names of Project Team members

**How may we use Project Pericles Funds?**

Pericles Fund resources may be used to support:

- Direct administrative and program costs;
- Materials and equipment;
- Living expenses (rent, food, utilities, local travel) including:
  1. Summer living expenses for Swarthmore College students working on the Project
  2. Summer earning requirements for aided students; Living expenses for graduated seniors through Labor day of that year
  3. Living expenses during the academic year for students who take a semester off to work full time on the Project
- With prior approval of the Pericles Fund Advisor, non-local travel for purposes directly related to the Project
- Production of audio-visual media or written materials created in support of the Project's goals and objectives
- With prior approval of the Pericles Fund Advisor, some consulting or staffing services
- With prior approval of the Pericles Fund Advisor, participation in activities such as conferences, trainings and symposia that contribute to the Team's knowledge and skills, and/or that provide critical opportunities for networking
- With prior approval of the Pericles Fund Advisor, hosting a conference or symposium whose purpose is to foster broad-based support for the Project and to promote its replication and sustainability

**What uses are not eligible for Project Pericles funding?**

Project Pericles Funds may not be used for Projects that are primarily or only direct service; research; capital projects or purchase of capital equipment. Additionally, funds may not used for:

- Religious proselytizing
- Partisan political programs
- Support of projects by individuals
- Redistribution as grants to third parties
- Activities and materials that promote values and actions not congruent with the mission of Project Pericles

**May we apply for other funding?**

Project teams may raise additional third party funding to support their Projects. Teams may be eligible for other funding from the College, provided that College guidelines concerning student
funding are respected. Lang Opportunity Scholars and recipients of certain other named scholarships may participate in a Project Pericles Fund Project, but may not receive support that duplicates their other scholarship funding.

**What are the reporting requirements?**

Grantees will report to the Center on their project activities, progress, and budget expenditures at regular intervals designated by the Grant Agreement. They may be asked to present their work at Project Pericles meetings and conferences, and on both the Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility and Project Pericles web sites.