

EXPO LIVE OVER THE YEARS

Expo 2020 Dubai's theme 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future' was founded on the belief that innovation and progress are the result of people and ideas, coming together in new and unique ways. To deliver on this mandate, the Expo Live Innovation Programme came to life in May 2016 to accelerate entrepreneurial spirit around the world and support projects delivering lasting and positive impact. What started as a promise during the bid phase in 2013, became a reality.

With USD 100 million investment, Expo Live harnessed the convening power of the World Expo to demonstrate how innovations coming from all places and people can advance the pace of progress and inspire a more inclusive and prosperous future.

Over the years, our call for innovation was answered by more than 11,000 start-ups from 184 countries, resulting in a global portfolio of 140 ventures (Global Innovators) funded in 74 countries.

During event time, the Expo Live pavilion, named "The Good Place", welcomed 200,000 visitors. Upon entering the doors, visitors were invited to witness the inspiring journeys of the Global Innovators and the mark they made on the world with the backing of Expo Live. The Pavilion enabled people from all walks of life to connect with the Innovators through an active programme centered around impact entrepreneurship and innovation, and even provided creative ways for them too to be agents of change.

All in all, the Expo Live Innovation Programme brought together hundreds of innovators, creating a global community of those who are bold and ambitious, those that care and do good – and together, the Programme has created a positive impact for over 5.8 million people worldwide. Moreover, it has restored 36 million hectares of land, offset 190,000 tonnes of CO₂, and conserved 6.3 million litres of water.

The story doesn't end there. Expo Live will continue to honour the commitment made by Expo 2020 Dubai, and will carry forward the essence of innovation, inspiration and impact.



WHAT ARE EXPO LIVE'S OBJECTIVES?

Innovation: Make Expo City Dubai a hub for global innovation that both inspires, and acts as a catalyst for creative and scalable solutions.

Partnerships: Establish a network for collaboration between nations, organisations and innovators around shared global challenges.

Engagement: Foster a community of agents of change by first sensitising them to climate challenges, and then engaging with them to collectively create impact solutions.

Impact: Create tangible impact that improves the lives of people around the world and the status of our planet, by supporting the development and application of new solutions.

WHAT IS THE EXPO LIVE INNOVATION IMPACT GRANT PROGRAMME ABOUT?

Expo Live's flagship Impact Grant Programme will award injection funds up to USD 50,000 to support the growth of social enterprises, start-ups and grassroots projects from around the world whose solutions generate social value in line with the legacy of Expo 2020 Dubai, and the ambition of Expo City Dubai.

Reopening for submissions in February 2023, the programme aims to provide much-needed funding to both developed and less developed markets, building a platform and opportunity for knowledge exchange and co-creation.

Funding levels will depend on the stage of maturity and scalability of innovations, its intended duration, and the extent of its impacts among others.

Beyond grant funding, successful grant recipients will also have access to networking and partnership opportunities, marketing and communications exposure, as well as additional funding enabling their solutions to be showcased during the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28), hosted by Expo City Dubai Authority.

The programme will also build partnerships with local business incubators, accelerators, mentors and investors in order to strengthen and promote active and productive ecosystems.

WHAT ARE THE FOCUS AREAS FOR GRANT ACTIVITIES?

While Expo 2020 Dubai may have come to a close, the spirit of "Connecting minds" lives on through the transformative initiatives that were highlighted during the event, Expo Live being an example. The programme and the impact work of Expo Live's Global Innovators will continue as part of Expo City Dubai, with the aim of scaling and maximising impact.

A reflection of Expo 2020 Dubai's – and now Expo City Dubai's – long-term commitment to deliver positive social, economic and environmental change, the search marks the sixth edition of Expo Live since it was announced in 2013 as part of the UAE's bid to host the World Expo. The criteria for Cohort Six will coincide with the upcoming COP28 – The Emirates Climate Conference with the UNFCCC, taking place at Expo City Dubai from 30 November to 12 December 2023.

In light of this, the focus areas of this cycle will draw on the overarching theme of Climate Resilience, thereby honouring the commitment of Expo 2020 Dubai and now, Expo City Dubai to understand and nurture the bond that connects people, society and habitats and to find new paths for prosperity that can lead to a viable future.

Innovative solutions are therefore geared towards tackling environmental challenges, with sectors ranging from renewables scaling, to water systems, waste management, nature and land use, and more.

Innovation can come from anywhere. The aim of Expo Live is to identify and support ideas that have the potential to benefit communities and the natural world by encouraging innovators and other solution-seekers to work together in novel ways.



WHO CAN APPLY?

The grant programme is an inclusive programme open to problem solvers from around the world ranging from individual entrepreneurs, SMEs, non-for-profit organizations, and government related entities. Applicants will be able to submit one application per a grant application cycle.

HOW TO APPLY?

Applicants for an Innovation Impact Grant can apply through our website.

1. Register on our website
www.expocitydubai.com/en/expo-live
2. Submit a short abstract explaining the challenge you are tackling and your solution
3. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal
4. The deadline for each round of submission of proposal abstracts are listed on the applications portal

To learn more about the application and evaluation process, please download the grant manual at: www.expocitydubai.com/en/expo-live or contact us at expolive@expodubaigroup.ae

WHAT CRITERIA WILL WE USE TO EVALUATE AND SELECT PROJECTS?

The Grant Programme seeks to fund advance-stage projects, which are currently in the demonstration and implementation phase.

Successful applicants will demonstrate how new innovations, or the innovative application of existing solutions, could lead to impressive impacts at community level. Potential for replication and/or scaling-up of solutions and impacts are important.

1. Is the solution, or its application, novel or innovative?
2. Is the project or business plan well-conceived; does the applicant have the capacity to implement the project, and is the requested grant amount reasonable and proportionate to the anticipated impacts?
3. Does the project or solution clearly identify the environmental/ social impacts? Are the current and intended impacts measurable
4. Is the project or solution ready for demonstration and/or transition-to-scale implementation? How will additional funding support the further development of the innovation or the scaling of the project?

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