



## **The Melton Foundation Grant Committee -Status Report 2011-**

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On behalf of the Grant Committee

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## 1) The Grant Committee - Five years of action

In the early years, the Melton Foundation (MF) offered small-scale grants which were administered by the Director. As a consequence of increasing popularity and massification of those grants, a Committee was formed in June 2006 to review and reform the MF granting structure. After 7 months of analysis, assessment and policy writing, the MF Granting Policy Committee – a multi-disciplinary team of Fellows and the Executive Office - presented a draft of a more coherent and organic granting structure, which was aligned with the MF's Guiding Principle and the MF's Strategic Plan 2007-2010. It also considered aspects like sustainability, impact and tangibility of MF grants. When the MF's Board of Directors approved their proposal in March 2007, the Grant Committee (GC) was created as an independent body in charge of Melton grants.

Since March 2007, the GC has dedicated itself to administer, issue and control MF grants, with the constant aspiration to improve and enhance structure, quality and impact of the Foundation's granting structure. Among the GC's members are Junior Fellows, Senior Fellows, Task Team Members – all of them working on a voluntary basis – and a representative of the MF's Executive Office in an advisory position.

Over the years, the different grants offered by the GC have enabled many Melton Fellows to realize promising activities and challenging projects, and it is safe to assume that the GC has become a fundamental pillar of Fellows and network capacity development within and beyond the MF.

Today, five years after the approval of the current Granting Policy, the MF is in transition to implement the new Strategic Plan, which was elaborated in a participatory process over two years and approved by the Board of Directors in 2011. The new Mission and direction of the MF also has consequences for the foundation's granting structure, and throughout 2012 a team of committed Fellows will work on the development of a new Granting Policy, which is in line with the new MF Strategic Plan but also will set new milestones for MF grants, their impact and sustainability.

For more information, please visit the MF Grants website at <http://meltonfoundation.org/grants>.

## 2) Structure of the Grant Committee

The GC is divided into three specialized Program Areas (PAs) allowing for more professionalism and quality control within the Grant Committee and with regard to results from or deliverables of issued grants. This division allows furthermore for sufficient structural flexibility to organically adapt internal processes and procedures to meet the specific criteria of each area. By reducing the scope of each PA, specific knowledge and relevant experience in the related field(s) can be given much more importance when recruiting PA members. Each PA can thus be considered a board of relatively specialized members who are able to take well balanced decisions and who are capable to supervise or tutor the genesis of tangible grant deliverables.

The three PAs are:

(1) *The Charitable Giving PA*, which is concerned about grants to promote and bring positive social impact to communities and societies.

Chairperson: Suhrid Karthik (SF from BMS)

Grants hosted under this PA:

- The Partnership for Positive Change Grant (P4PC)  
*<http://www.meltonfoundation.org/grants/partnership-for-positive-change>*

(2) *The Connectivity and Bonding PA*, which is dedicated to grants that aim at strengthening the MF network and increasing the Melton Fellows' bonding as well as their engagement with the MF.

Chairperson: Divya Tyam (SF from BMS)

Grants hosted under this PA:

- TravelTogether  
*<http://meltonfoundation.org/grants/travel-together>*
- Connectivity and Network Strengthening Grant  
*This grant ceased to exist in 2011 because of a consistent decline in applicants.*

(3) *The Education PA*, which manages grants with strong focus on cross-cultural training as well as those promoting the learning from and about other MF cultures and global issues.

Chairperson: Jaikar Mohan (SF from BMS)

Grants hosted under this PA:

- Mutual Capacity Development Grant (MCDG)  
*<http://meltonfoundation.org/grants/mutual-capacity-development>*
- Educational Impact Grant (EIG)  
*<http://meltonfoundation.org/grants/education-impact>*
- Campus-to-Campus Grant (C2C)  
*<http://meltonfoundation.org/grants/campus-2-campus>*

The Melton Innovator, which was designed as transversal grant spanning over all three PAs ceased to exist in 2012.

For more information on structure and functioning of the Grant Committee, visit our website.

### 3) Application to Grants

One of the basic tools used by the Grant Committee is the online application tool offered by Formdesk providing an application format which is easy to manage and process by the Grant Committee and clearly structured and comfortable to use by applicants.

*For better acquaintance, test the tool at <http://fd9.formdesk.com/mf1/Mock-form>.*

Whereas some grants are available throughout the entire year, others have set application windows which have consequences for the availability of the application form respectively. Usually, the GC informs about upcoming or open application windows on the official Melton Channels. However, it is recommended to visit the website and review the grants and their specific criteria. Also, each project should be carefully thought through and scheduled out prior to applying to any of the grants offered by the GC.

### 4) Status Reports 2011 of the Program Areas

According to the structural premises elaborated above, each of the three Program Areas (PAs) is responsible for their respective grants. It is thus under the responsibility of each PA to use its resources - the allocated budget as much as the competencies and capacities of the PA members - in a sensitive and impacting way.

#### 4.1) Charitable Giving PA

--by Suhrid Kartik--

The 2011 Granting Committee comprised of the following members:

- Suhrid Karthik (SF) [Chair]
- Vermeen Kapoor (SF)
- Carrie Radloff (SF)
- Melanie Miller Garrett (SF)
- Karla Palma (SF)
- Wa Yuan (SF)
- Lars Dietzel (Ex Officio)

#### a) Granting Procedure and Figures

The Charitable Giving PA received one application in 2011. However, the PA determined that the application did not meet the grant criteria. The budget that was planned for was therefore not used.

#### b) Challenges, Innovations and future projects

The PA took steps to encourage more MF'ers to apply for the Partnership for Positive Change grant (P4PC). The granting criteria was simplified and reworked to be more readable with

example of potential projects. Publicity was also carried out to make more people aware of granting opportunities.

The effects of this are already being seen in 2012, with one grant approved as well as more ideas for grants being discussed and evaluated. For 2012, the PA will look not only at evaluating grant applicants but also mentor and support MF'ers towards applying for grants.

#### **4.2) Connectivity & Bonding PA**

--by Divya Tyam--

The 2011 Granting Committee was a crisp mix of members from the 2010 team as well as some new members:

- Divya Tyam (SF) [Chair]
- Constanza (Coni) Alonqueo (SF)
- Diana Conrad (SF)
- Patricia (Patty) Ortiz (SF)
- Prateek Ranganathan (SF)
- Lars Dietzel (Ex Officio)

##### **a) Figures**

In 2011, the team decided to discontinue the Connectivity and Network Strengthening Grant, since it was observed that it was not relevant for SFs anymore. For the coming year, the plan entails creating a JF Connectivity Grant, a need-based grant for JFs who require special connectivity equipment.

For TravelTogether, we allocated a budget of \$1500 per group for travel in Chile. Sadly, there were no applications in 2011.

##### **b) Challenges, Innovations and future projects**

Part of the work the team did during the year was to analyze the lack of applications for the TravelTogether group for 2010 and 2011.

We looked at data from past applications to see if there were any grant rejects that was raising the barrier to applying. Some of the ideas to be considered for the year 2012 are:

1. Advertise the grant at symposiums and mid-year, to give applicants some time to mentally prepare.
2. Massage the deliverables such that they don't have to come up with something too academic.
3. Provide a pre-canned pool of deliverables that fellows can check off on the application rather than come up with themselves. Some ideas are writing joint blogs on culture-critical topics, photography and collaborative multimedia like photo books. This will be a major goal for 2012.

### **4.3) Education (Edu) PA**

--by Jaikar Mohan--

2011 was a rather dynamic year with lots of activity in the Education PA right through the year. Thanks are due to all the PA members<sup>1</sup> for their active contribution throughout the year:

- Jaikar Mohan (SF) [Chair]
- Andrea Ocares (SF)
- Prof. Huilan Ying (TT Emeritus)
- Sartaj Anand Singh (JF)
- Lars Dietzel (Ex Officio)

#### **a) Granting Procedure and Figures**

The Edu PA supports projects in cross-cultural training and projects that promote learning about other MF cultures and global issues. In accordance with the Granting Policy, the Edu PA aims at ensuring the ambitious quality standards which are implicit in the MF's aspiration of higher institutional impact and more tangible results. Another fundamental concern of this PA is to encourage and foster high potentials and innovative projects dwelling within the Melton community.

The assessment for all grants provided by the Edu PA follows three steps:

1. Critical review of the application - Each application is reviewed by all PA members to identify strengths and weaknesses and to provide the applicant with another opportunity to present missing information or to clarify doubts and/or misunderstanding.
2. Objective assessment - in accordance with grant criteria - All applications are assessed by all PA members using a survey to measure its strength, relevance and impact according to grant specific criteria. In order to move on to the next assessment round, each application must receive a minimal assessment score, which may vary according to the specific grant criteria and number of PA members participating.
3. Qualitative analysis - All remaining applications are discussed in a web-conference and final decisions are taken based on
  - The relative strength of the application
  - The potential impact of the project
  - Current market prices (benchmarks for travel for the EIG)
  - The amount requested from the MF vs. personal contribution.
  - The available budget

In 2011, the Edu PA

- received a total of 26 applications (MCDG: 10 / EIG: 12 / C2C: 4),
- resulted in 19 successful applications (MCDG: 6 / EIG: 9 / C2C: 4)
- issued 17 grants (two EIG-grantees withdrew their application)

The overall expenses in Edu PA grants in 2011 are 23,987.33 USD<sup>2</sup>:

- MCDG: 5,184 USD
- EIG: 14,248.33 USD
- C2C: 4555 USD.

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<sup>1</sup> Jaikar Mohan took over as the PA chair from November 2011 from Lars Dietzel and Prof. Huilan Ying completes her term in the Education PA. We thank both of them for their insightful contributions through these 4 years.

<sup>2</sup> This amount may vary slightly since we have one active application from MCDG, the final grant amount of which will depend on the actual costs of the applicant. We will update this in March 2012.

## **b) Challenges, Innovations and Future Projects**

- The concept of “Key contact” person, introduced in 2008, to interact with each grantee has yielded great results. Not only is it easier for the PA to be in touch with the grantees, it has also made it easier for the grantees to communicate their project requirements, changes, deliverables etc. to the PA without necessarily having to reach out to the PA Chair on every single occasion. This has also brought in an additional sense of responsibility for the PA members as well, thereby helping in creating a more congenial atmosphere within the PA.

- In 2011, most of the grantees of grants offered by the Edu PA were also successful in handing their deliverables. The “key contact” concept helped in keeping track of the deliverables and the quality of the deliverables has also been consistently getting better. All the deliverables have been uploaded on the MF Grants Good Practice Center.

- In 2012, the Edu PA has decided to drop the grants associated with Project Culture and Project Campus. Both the groups are close to non-functional now and there have been no applications for grants in these project groups over the past couple of years. Additionally, the purpose of these Project Group Grants has also been served by the Intercultural Global Learning Fund and Campus-2-Campus Grant respectively.

- In 2012, the Edu PA also hopes to have a couple of new members joining in from one of the other PAs within the GC to keep the organizational flow running.

## **5) Final remarks**

In 2010, the GC’s Good Practice Centre was launched, which marks a crucial step towards more sustainable quality and transparency of the Grant Committee's activities.

Presently, the Melton Foundation Grant Committee is in transition and a small team of dedicated Fellows is working on developing a new Granting Policy that reflects the new MF Strategic Plan. The new Granting Policy is schedule for launch in 2013 with the aspiration to set new milestones for MF grants, their impact and sustainability. Throughout the restructuring process, the GC will remain operational and all grants will continue as stated on the MF Grants website <http://meltonfoundation.org/grants>.

Although there may be significant structural changes ahead, the Committee is committed not only to promote Global Citizenship within and beyond the MF, but also to irrevocably incorporate values such as transparency, traceability, and participation into its program. The Grant Committee asserted its position as integral part of the Melton Foundation's structure and is looking forward to keep up and increase the high standards also for the future.

At any time, all Fellows of the MF should feel cordially invited or strongly urged to not only be critical (in a constructive way) but also to communicate critique to us. The Granting Committee is strongly committed to the Melton Foundation, and the Melton Foundation is everybody - Senior Fellows, Junior Fellows, TT or other members - yet we can only be at our best, when we receive your feedback and input.

Thanks also to Tanja Schulze, former MF Program Director and ex officio representative at the Grant Committee, for her dedication and hard work. We wish her all the best for the future and hope to either welcome her back as a SF-member of the committee or to receive her grant application at some point.