

**Peer Learning Exchange Grant Program
2019 Investment Summary**

Fund Overview. Since 2013, the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) Peer Learning Exchange (PLE) fund has allowed USDN members to meet in person with their peers to share learnings from one or more practices, policies, or programs. Members use the fund to convene for: (1) in-depth exchanges; (2) best practice disseminations; and (3) peer reviews. Proposals are solicited through a quarterly RFP process. As of December 2019, the USDN PLE grant program has awarded \$310,696 to fund 59 exchanges.

2019 Grant Program. A volunteer committee of USDN members has guided the evolution of this grant program and manages the awards selection process. 2019 committee members are as follows:

- Carol Davis; Blacksburg, VA
- Robyn Eason; West Hollywood, CA (*co-chair*)
- Wayne Feiden; Northampton, MA
- Sara Kane; Sarasota County, FL
- Christine Knapp; Philadelphia, PA
- Ashley Krug; Springfield, MO
- Lisa LaRocque; Las Cruces, NM (*co-chair*)
- Emily Sadigh; Alameda County, CA
- Kris Stenger; Winter Park, FL

2019 Awards. In 2019, PLE awarded \$35,124 in grants to support 6 in-person exchanges for participants from member communities, shown in Table 1. PLE products are available on USDN.org website [here](#).

Table 1. 2019 Peer Learning Exchange Awards.

Quarter	Grant Name	Amount	Lead	Grant Purpose
January RFP	Climate Heritage	\$6,500	San Antonio, TX	To discuss how to incorporate climate action and adaptation principles into heritage planning.
	Low-Income EV Carsharing	\$5,100	Ann Arbor, MI	To deepen the knowledge necessary to establish an EV car share program in participant cities, especially in low-income and underserved communities.
April RFP	Dismantling Racism	\$5,136	Minneapolis, MN	To form a white member affinity group for dismantling racism that will support the People of Color working group.
	Carbon Sequestration	\$6,812	San Luis Obispo, CA	To create best practice dissemination on the emerging topic of carbon sequestration as it relates to the municipal setting.
July RFP	Equity-Centered Climate Action Planning	\$5,354	Richmond, VA	To convene cities actively working on creating or implementing equity-centered climate action plans to examine what “equity-centered” means in practice.
September RFP	Climate Related Financial Disclosure	\$6,222	Toronto, ON	To convene the cities of Vancouver and Toronto to jointly develop plans and approaches to enhance their climate related disclosure in their respective next Annual Financial Reports.