



# Seize the Moment

# Impact Report

Fall 2021 - Spring 2023



# Letter from the Directors

Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Partners,

Over the past two years, our collaborative efforts to **Seize the Moment** inspired innovative experiments in learning, interdisciplinary research, and public engagement to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time. Today, we express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one who made this journey possible.

**Seize the Moment** grew out of discussion with thought leaders convened across ASU exploring how our university could rise to the occasion amidst the polycrises in public health, social justice, and the environment. As the syndemic of global and national crises intensified in 2020, we were convinced that ASU's mission provided an ideal platform for confronting these intersecting issues. Centering ASU's commitment to interdisciplinary ideas and hybrid creativity, **Seize the Moment** was able to ignite sparks and catalyze impact-oriented, interdisciplinary pedagogy, inquiry, and tangible action outcomes. We witnessed the transformative power of **Seize the Moment-themed Humanities Labs**, student-faculty Beyond the Lab Fellowships, interdisciplinary faculty team Research Seed Grant projects, and Creative Enterprise. International public engagement extended the reach of our work through multimedia art exhibitions, art-science events, publications and enterprise platforms.

The **Seize the Moment** Initiative has achieved remarkable milestones over the past two years. Through 17 **Seize the Moment themed Humanities Labs** (more than double the number we expected to help fund), we reached 545 students, fostering their collaborative and problem-solving skills and increasing their engagement with pressing social and environmental problems. The STM Amplifier Mini Grant program supported 19 student-led community events, showcasing the power of interdisciplinary collaboration and public engagement. "Elevate AR," a standout Beyond the Lab Fellowship, developed a cutting-edge software toolkit for augmented reality narratives, unlocking new dimensions of storytelling. Thanks to STM's primary partner Leonardo, faculty seed grant team recipients for the "Anthropocene" and "Turn It Around" projects received international recognition at Leonardo related exhibitions in Linz, Paris and Barcelona, demonstrating STM's global impact and contribution to academic excellence. Leonardo's public engagement showcasing STM through scholarly publication with MITP, our blog, newsletter, conference presentation and LASER events has collectively reached an audience of 127,000. As impressive as these numbers are, there is evidence that STM has had a ripple effect in transforming teaching, learning, public engagement, and research activities beyond the project's events and outcomes.

As such achievements illustrate, **Seize the Moment** has flourished at the intersection of Leonardo, the Humanities Lab, and the Global Futures Laboratory at Arizona State University. Our shared mission has always been to foster groundbreaking, creative solutions through higher education, allowing us to shape the future today. By taking collective responsibility to make a positive difference in the communities we serve—both locally and globally—**Seize the Moment** has advanced the shared goals of all our partners.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, we acknowledge and express our deepest appreciation for all those who have made this remarkable journey possible. We are profoundly grateful for the generous support provided by the ASU President's Strategic Initiative Fund and the GFL leadership, as well as the steadfast engagement of our core partners. **Seize the Moment** would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our colleagues who have collaborated tirelessly on this initiative. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Heather Switzer and Juliann Vitullo, Humanities Lab Co-Directors; STM manager Briana Noonan; Humanities Lab staff members Monica Boyd, Maureen Kobierowski, and Pamela Hintz; Leonardo staff members Jenny Strickland, Termeh Rassi; and to members of the SILC Support Staff. We are also indebted to the countless colleagues and thought partners who have provided invaluable guidance throughout this transformative work.

As we bring this ambitious pilot to a close, we do so with an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude. Together, we have harnessed the power of collaboration, innovation, and interdisciplinary thinking to address the most compelling and complicated challenges of the moment. The impact of this initiative will continue to resonate through emerging and future efforts at ASU and beyond. Through endeavors like **Seize the Moment**, we embody the true spirit of seizing opportunities and making a lasting impact on the world.

With warmest regards,



Diana Ayton-Shenker and Sally Kitch  
Co-Directors, Seize the Moment Initiative



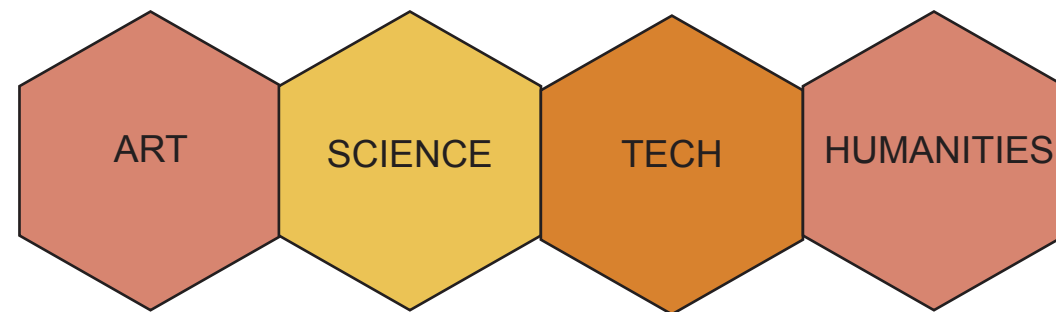
# What was the Seize the Moment Initiative designed to do?

Planning for the future has never been more critical, as an alarming “syndemic” of intersecting crises—the coronavirus pandemic, racial injustice and cascading environmental hazards—destabilize social systems and threaten human survival across the planet.

Seize the Moment (STM) is designed to address the challenges of the current moment through transdisciplinary collaborations in the arts, sciences, humanities, and technology in pedagogy, research, and public engagement.

Together, we believe these fields are uniquely well-positioned to engage with the compelling questions of our time and to forge thoughtful, creative pathways toward deeper understanding of and novel frameworks for addressing them.

Seize the Moment is a joint initiative of Leonardo, the Humanities Lab and the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, and is made possible by a Strategic Initiative Fund from the Office of the President of Arizona State University. Check out more about Seize the Moment [HERE](#).



## STM Programs:

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### STM by the Numbers

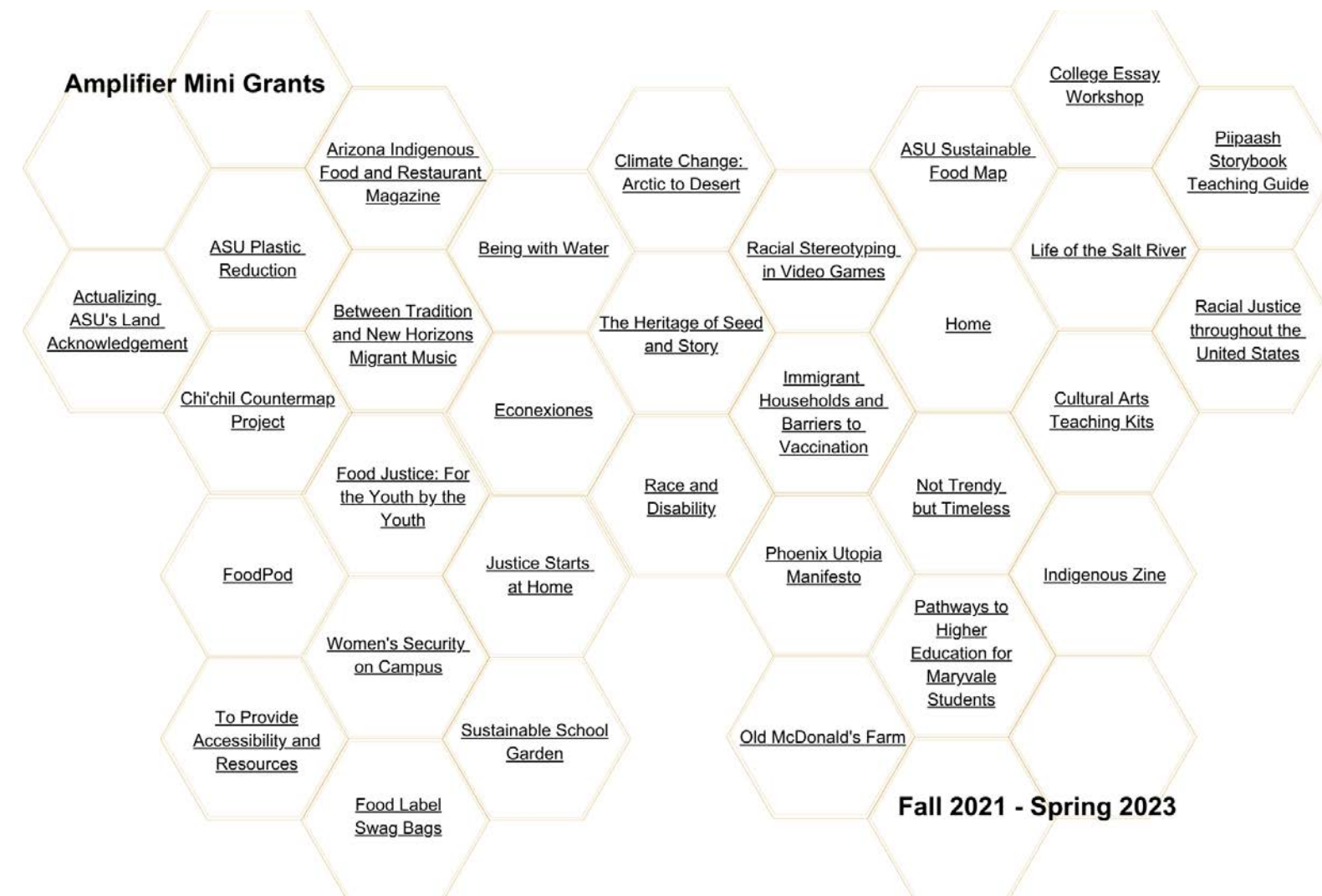
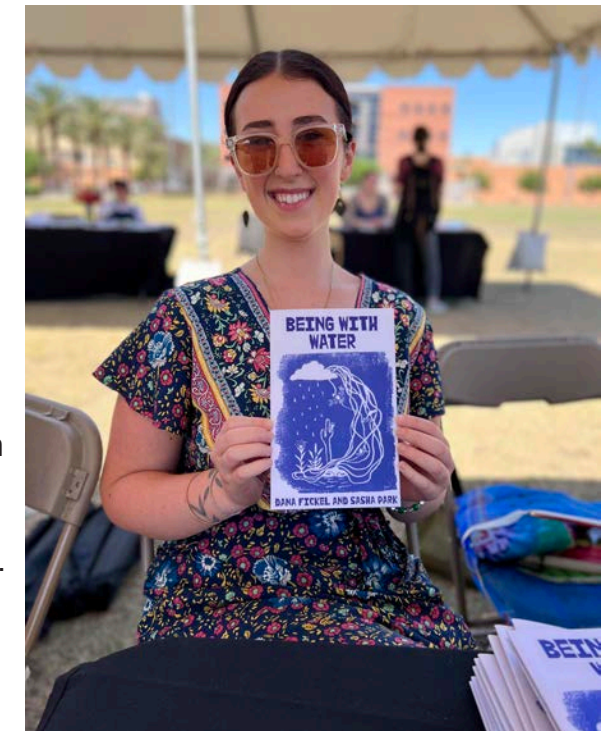
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# Amplifier Mini Grants

Amplifier Mini-Grants provide Humanities Lab students with up to \$1,000 to increase their outcome’s impact and reach by producing podcasts or videos, organizing public events, and more.

- Over the last 2 years 138 students from 17 Seize the Moment themed Humanities Labs applied for Amplifier mini grants totaling 43 applications. Out of these 43 we were able to fund 31 impact outcomes utilizing Seize the Moment funding.
- “The Amplifier Student Mini-Grant was able to enhance our outcome because it allowed our stories and interviews to reach more people on campus and help them learn more about indigenizing their food system and decolonizing their diet.”
- Student teams held a total of 19 events over the last two years.
- “The ability to bring in the consultant advanced our project enormously. Not only did it help at our tabling events, but they will be incorporating it into their classes so it’ll be helpful on a larger scale.”
- Check out the projects in depth at the this [link](#).



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# Beyond the Lab Fellowships

The Beyond the Lab program offers Humanities Lab students an opportunity to work beyond the semester's end to further develop and refine outcomes created in the original Lab for greater impact into the communities they serve. Seize the Moment supported 12 students across 3 Beyond the Lab Fellowships with funding totaling \$15,600 over the last 2 years. Learn more by selecting the project links below.

[Piipaash Language Teaching Guide](#)  
Fall 2022 - Spring 2023



[Elevate AR](#)  
Spring 2022



[Chi'Chil Count ermapping Project](#)  
Spring 2023



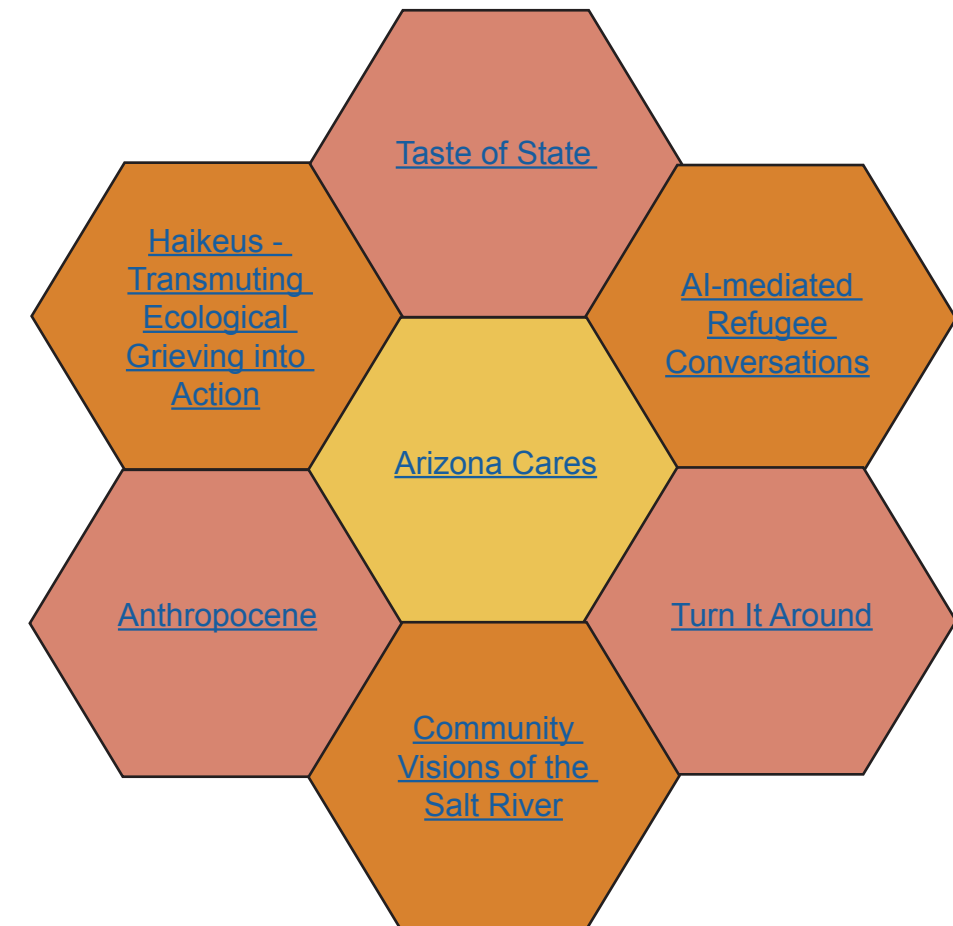
# Faculty Research Seed Grants

Seed grants provide ASU faculty with the opportunity to apply for up to \$10,000 to support collaborative, transdisciplinary research projects and activities that address the intersecting social, environmental, and health crises of the syndemic.



## Seed Grant Successes!

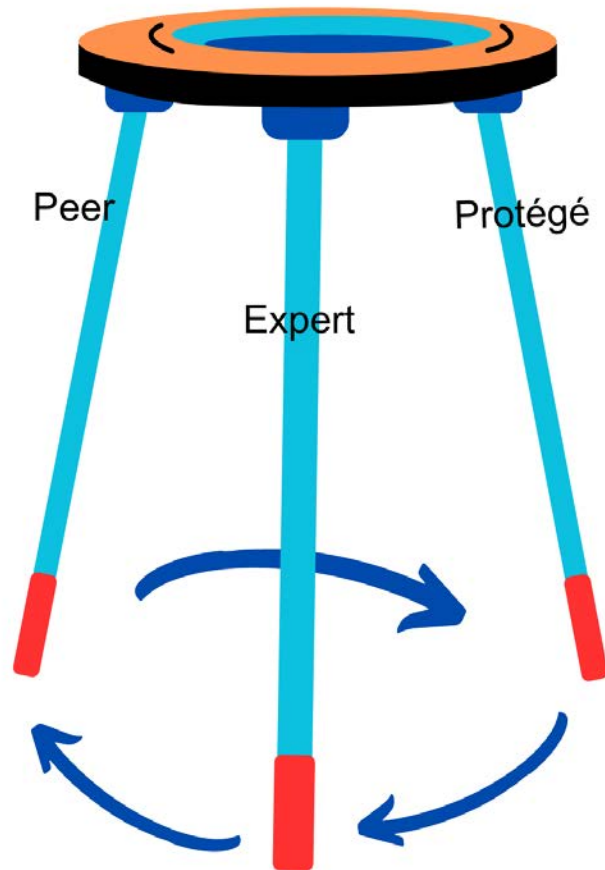
- Supported 7 faculty seed grants over the past 2 years across 11 colleges and 27 schools or centers.
- Engaged with 27 faculty across the ASU landscape!
- Seed Grant Awardees participated in 2 LASER talks to amplify their projects through Leonardo.
- Anthropocene will be published in the Leonardo Journal coming August 2023.
- Community Visions is published on the Leonardo Blog.
- Anthropocene & Turn it Around were invited to ISEA.
- Received 63 pitches.
- Had 181 ASU faculty applicants.





# Leonardo LiftOff

Leonardo LiftOff is a launching platform for hybrid creative enterprises and funders; the portfolio of initiatives at the intersection of arts, science & technology will be selected from Leonardo and ASU-incubated initiatives, and from pre-vetted ventures nominated by invited Pipeline Partners active in creative economy and impact investing. LiftOff will feature SDG-aligned, arts, science & digital culture enterprises with projected market reach of 1-10 million people. LiftOff will introduce a new model of “Mentor Tripods” to match creative entrepreneurs with a 3-pronged mentorship mix of experts, proteges, & peers.



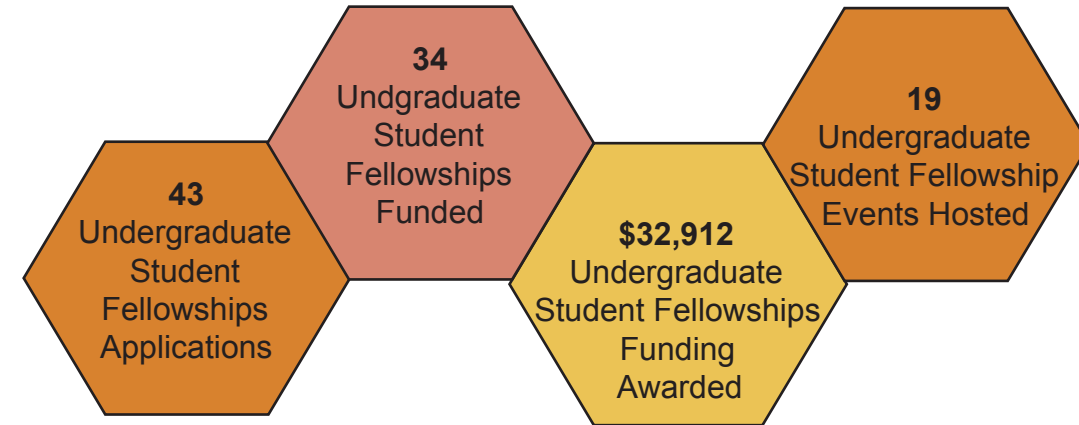
## Mentor Tripod Model

The Leonardo Liftoff Mentor Tripod facilitates mutual learning, support & growth for people and teams at different stages of enterprise development or experience. This innovation transforms hierarchical approaches to enterprise development toward collective, collaborative, & generative engagement.

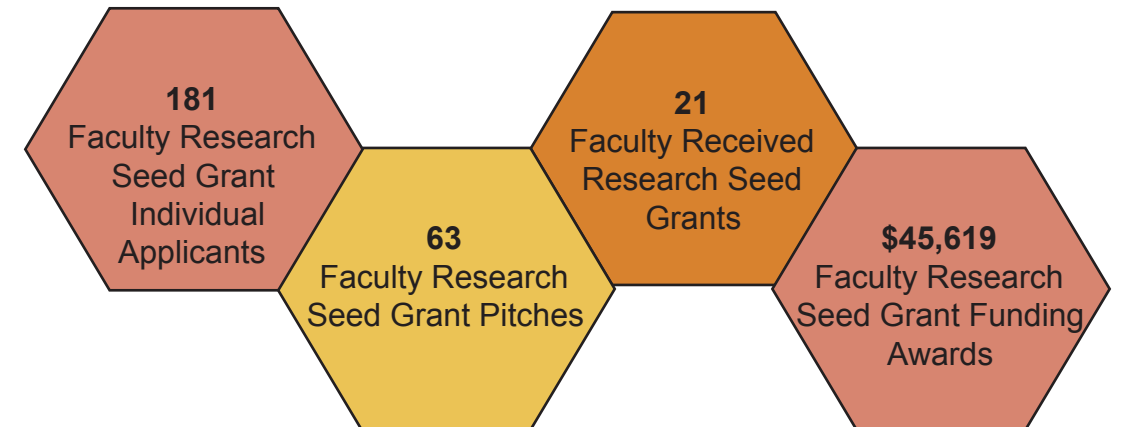


# STM Impact by the Numbers

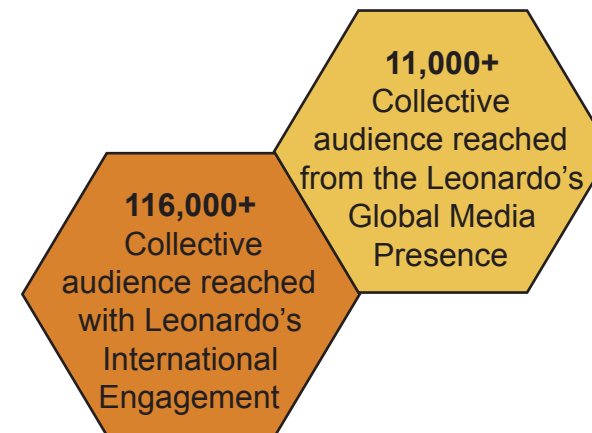
## Undergraduate Education & Research Support



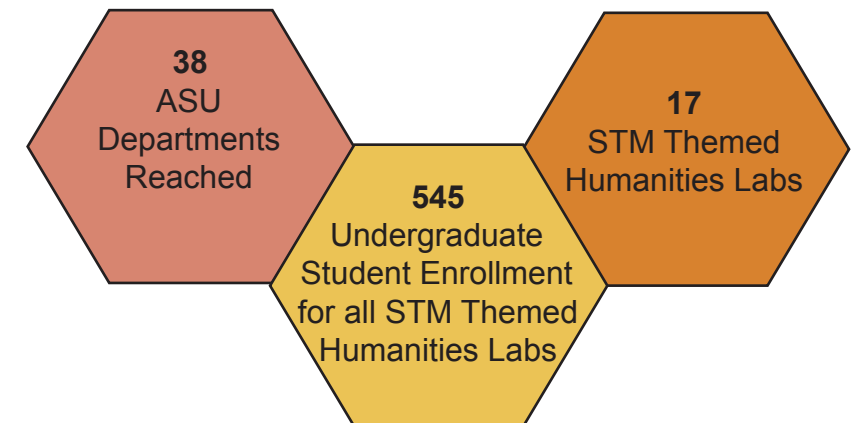
## Faculty Research Seed Grants



## Public Engagement & Enterprise



## Cross University Collaboration







LEONARDO

**Humanities Lab**

**ASU** Julie Ann Wrigley  
Global Futures Laboratory  
Arizona State University