

## “Youth in the House!”

### Youth Congress Exhibit and Microgrant Initiative

#### The Asia-Pacific Housing Forum Youth Congress

The 2021 Asia-Pacific Housing Forum Youth Congress will bring together young people who have led community projects that provide solutions to the housing challenges in their communities. It will provide young leaders with a platform to showcase their projects to a regional audience, discuss what resources young people need to scale up their projects and impact, and prepare a youth statement on “building forward better for inclusive housing”. As in its past iterations, the third Youth Congress will raise the issue of decent, affordable housing through the eyes of the youth, their stake in the issue and the ways they contribute to the solutions.

#### “Youth in the House!” the Youth Congress exhibit and microgrant initiative

We believe that young people are uniquely placed to become agents of change within their communities based on their valuable insights, influence and credibility.

The “Youth in the House!” exhibition and microgrant initiative supports youth-led organizations that advances housing and shelter solutions. We aim to:

- showcase youth-led projects and solutions to actors in the housing sector from across the region and
- provide seed funding to initiatives promoting a more vibrant, inclusive and collaborative housing ecosystem in the respective geographies.

It seeks to recognize outstanding youth-led projects that help continue or expand a project that demonstrates innovative and effective approaches to improving the awareness, knowledge, capacities of communities and homeowners to have a better housing. Using the exhibit function of the APHF2021 platform, selected youth will present their initiatives and projects that contributed to housing and shelter solutions. This project also aims to award one of the exhibitors, chosen through a jury, with a small additional funding of up to US\$1,000 to continue, replicate, or scale up their project.

This initiative will only support projects that are developed and managed by youth for the benefit of the community where it operates. The age definition used by Habitat for Humanity to characterize youth is a person who is between 18 and 30 years old.

#### Guidelines

This guideline serves as a tool for applicants to properly submit their current initiatives and project proposals for exhibition at the Forum. They contain information about:

- Geographical coverage
- Eligibility criteria
- Selection process
- Evaluation
- Application instructions

Co-organizer

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*Geographical coverage.* This call for applications welcome proposals from youth-led organizations, individuals, or social enterprises operating in the following locations:

- Bangladesh
- Cambodia
- Fiji
- Hong Kong
- India
- Indonesia
- Nepal
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Vietnam

*Eligibility for applicants.* Youth-led organizations, youth groups or social enterprises that will apply for the “Youth in the House!” exhibit and microgrant initiative are subject to the same criteria as other partners of Habitat for Humanity in that they must be accountable, transparent and refrain from all discriminatory practices and adhere to Habitat’s Safeguarding policies.

Each applying individuals of organizations need to fulfill the following criteria to be considered for the initiative:

- Be youth-led: a majority of the positions and decision-making roles within the organization are held by persons between the ages of 18 and 30;
- Group must be operational or have been implementing a project for a minimum of 18 months (since March 2020 or earlier);
- Have a gender perspective/balance reflected in their staff, beneficiaries and activities;
- Have no adherence to or affiliations with violent ideologies or antagonism against any particular country, culture, religion or belief system, ethnic group, gender, etc.

Upon request, organizations will need to provide documented evidence of how they fulfill all of these criteria.

*Eligibility for projects.* All submitted projects must fulfill each and every one of the following criteria to be deemed eligible and be reviewed by the Selection Committee:

- **Origin:** The project was written, developed, and implemented by youth;
- **Target audience:** The project targets the wider community to improve the housing ecosystem where the initiative operates;
- **Objective and demonstrated outputs:** The project can demonstrate a history of outputs that contribute to advancing affordable, decent, inclusive housing and sustainable communities;
- **Management:** The initiative is managed by a youth-led individual, group or organization, meeting all eligibility criteria mentioned above. Applicant must be able to show an organizational chart or names of group members, with the age of key decision makers within the organization;
- **Project coordinator or applicant:** The project coordinator must be directly involved in the implementation of the initiative and is between the ages of 18 and 30 at the moment of the application;
- **Location:** Project activities are implemented in one or more countries mentioned in the geographical coverage section;
- **Language:** Application of the project must be in English only; and
- **Readiness to scale, replicate or expand their initiative.** The application must detail a proposed use for US\$1,000 to scale, replicate or expand their already existing initiative. It must include a description of the need, the target outputs, planned activities, and potential to sustain the project.

**Application process.** Interested individuals or organizations may [apply here](#). The application deadline is Oct. 15, 2021. In order to be considered complete and valid, the application package must include the following and be submitted through the online application system:

- The application form, completed and certified by the applicants;
- A list of key team members with brief descriptions of their role in the organization or initiative (2 pages maximum);
- Link to videos or photos documenting the initiative and its outputs.

More information can be found at <https://aphousingforum.org/youth-congress/>.

All applicants are encouraged to register for the [Asia-Pacific Housing Forum Youth Congress](#) to reserve your complementary pass to the events. For any questions on this initiative, please consult: Angeli C. Alba-Pascual at [aalba@habitat.org](mailto:aalba@habitat.org).

**Selection process.**

Sept. 20	Call for youth applications opens.
Oct. 15	Application period ends
Oct. 15-21	First deliberation. Review applications for compliance to the eligibility criteria.
Oct. 22-28	Validation. Filter the Top 10 candidates based on alignment with Habitat's mission and country priorities and practicality of the proposed use of US\$1,000. Only those that pass the validation will move to the next stage.
Oct. 29-Nov. 4	Second deliberation. The jury chooses the Top 4-5 finalist-exhibitors based on the eligibility criteria and evaluation.
Nov. 5	Finalist-exhibitors receive information that they have been chosen as one of the Top finalists, along with details about necessary preparations and schedule of training on pitching and use of the exhibition platform.
Nov. 8-12	Finalist-exhibitors receive training for pitching and use of the exhibition platform.
Nov. 30	Finalist-exhibitors present to the jury. This will make up 80% of the final score.
Nov. 30-Dec. 5	Youth votes on the finalist-exhibitors' projects on the HYL B accounts. This will make up 20% of the final score.
Dec. 9	Winner of the US\$1,000 microgrant is announced.

**Evaluation criteria.**

**First and second deliberations.**

- **Activities (20%).**  
The project or initiative comprise of activities that aim to build positive and long-term collaborative relationships between youth and other stakeholders in the context it operates; The project demonstrates a solid gender-mainstreaming approach and is inclusive to minorities and/or marginalized groups with a view to promote a more socially cohesive community; The proposed use of the microgrant is realistic in its innovative and effective approaches that expands people's access to information, products and services that empower communities to improve their housing conditions
- **Relevance (20%).** The project is appropriate to the local context and targets local audience; it represents good value for money, with a clear and appropriate budget.
- **Quality (20%).** The Youth group, individual or organization has undertaken an analysis of problems/risks. It utilizes a consistent strategy over the years and has demonstrable impact to the communities it serves. The application is concise and provides responses to all questions or sections; it includes insightful arguments and engaging narrative.

- Potential Impact (20%). The potential outputs or impacts of the proposed use of the US\$1,000 microgrant project are clearly outlined in the project proposal. The proposal shows readiness to scale, replicate or expand their initiative.

**Validation.** Applications must show (1) alignment with Habitat for Humanity's mission and country priorities and (2) practicality of the proposed use of US\$1,000 based on the local context.

#### **Final judging.**

- Exhibition and Presentation to the Jury (80%). Based on the exhibition and presentation to the jury, the finalist-exhibitors must show alignment with Habitat's mission, the effectivity of their past or ongoing projects, and the practicality and potential impact of their proposed use of the US\$1,000.
- Popular vote on the Habitat Young Leaders Build accounts (20%).

#### **Prizes and benefits**

- The Top 4 finalist-exhibitors will get a reserved space in the Asia-Pacific Housing Forum to showcase their youth-led solutions and to network with global actors, potential donors and investors.
- The Top 4 finalist-exhibitors will get a chance to pitch for seed funding to scale, replicate or expand their initiatives.
- The initiative winner will receive a microgrant worth up to US\$1,000.

Winners will be contacted by Habitat for Humanity via email and provided with information on further steps, including signing the agreements and transfers of the US\$1,000 microgrant. The winning individual or organization may be requested to present at another virtual event either at the Asia-Pacific Housing Forum main conference or other Habitat for Humanity events.