

Dear ACS members,

One of our newest members (Kathleen Lane) has just sent me information about grants funded by the TKF Foundation fostering design/research work on <http://www.opensacred.org/grants>

What sorts of research questions are of interest for OSSP Award funding?

The overarching purpose of the research element of the OSSP Awards is to engage a community of scientists to generate more complete knowledge about the benefits and impacts that result from user experiences of nature-based sacred spaces in cities. Research questions and methodological approaches should be informed by prior research findings in the social science and public health disciplines, and should seek new advances in concepts or theory of human health and well-being. TKF's content analysis of prior OSSP user responses suggests several opportunities (Figure 1). Proposed studies may, 1) better articulate a user's transformational experience while directly in an OSSP, or 2) explore the positive influence on the mental and/or physical state of the user after or in between site visits, or 3) or demonstrate how a person functions across different contexts, such as home, school, or work, a third focus of study due to the OSSP experience, and finally, 4) pursue economic implications of effects. Proposed research may address any combination of these opportunities but should be framed in a way that would be of interest to urban decision-makers.

For more, please go to the website.

Thank you Kathleen!

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"yield and overcome, bend and be straight"