

Earthquake Engineering Research Institute

Initiatives Development Committee

Charter

June 2013

At the end of 2012, EERI's Board of Directors convened a group comprising the President, President-Elect, former Presidents, and several others with substantial experience with the Institute over the years. The assignment for this panel was to review the history of projects funded by EERI with Endowment funds with the aim to improve the outcome of this activity for the future. The recommendation of the group, subsequently endorsed by the Board, was to disband the Special Projects and Initiatives Committee and establish a high level Initiatives Development Committee (IDC) that will report to the Board with the following general assignments:

- Nourish ideas that make EERI more vital, important and healthy as an organization. Past examples include the Learning from Earthquakes Program, Technical Seminars, Concrete Coalition, World Housing Encyclopedia, and Housner Fellows.
- Establish a process to proactively find good ideas that would engage and energize the membership.
- Ensure that projects contribute to building staff at EERI and keep the Institute on the cutting edge of the field.
- Assist member(s) in developing proposals to the IDC for funding with Endowment resources (The IDC would make recommendations to the Board for their final selection).

Key program principles include:

- Supported activities should be relatively large concerted efforts on key issues in earthquake engineering.
- The Committee will actively communicate with EERI committees, programs, student and regional chapters to assess the interests of the membership.
- Learn from past successes that have demonstrated that day-to-day management of projects by EERI staff is essential.
- The Committee will meet face-to-face on a regular basis.
- Committee members need to be very knowledgeable about EERI and are likely to be among the future leaders of EERI.
- The Board needs to be directly involved in this program on an ongoing basis.
- The program is one of EERI's most important programs.

Project principles include:

- Serve member interests and/or strengthen the Institute.
- Mobilize members and others.
- Reinforce existing valuable EERI programs and committees.
- Have long-term relevance.
- Provide members the opportunity to make a difference in "something that matters"
- Projects are to be limited in time or demonstrate a potential for future non-Endowment funding. (Longer term projects that have a potential for generating non-membership revenue may be considered)
- Projects can be replicated by other groups in different locations or on a larger scale

- Engage non-members and promote EERI membership
- Provide opportunities for collaboration between young professionals and senior professionals
- Leverage EERI assets, including:
 - Multidisciplinary membership
 - Non-competitive atmosphere (so business competitors willing to work together)
 - Unique capabilities
 - Credibility associated with the volunteer base (e.g. “the crowd”)
 - Student and Regional Chapters
 - Geographic diversity