

# VSOE Grant Report

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Title: Toward an Interdisciplinary Center for Megacities

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Period of Activity: June 2008 – June 2009

1. *Summarize the program on which the funds were spent (1/2 page; for additional materials point to a web site with info)*

The main purpose of the VSoE grant was to fund a workshop that would launch the initiative on megacities at USC. Held on November 10-11, 2008, the workshop was a real success, prompted the Workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure in July 2009, and resulted in a research proposal to the National Science Foundation for the creation of an engineering research center on a theme directly related to megacities. The workshop was also instrumental in creating a new ORU: The Center on Megacities.

90% of the funding went into the workshop (food, lodging, travel expenses, parking, etc...), and 10% went into the website, publication of workshop proceedings, and materials and supplies. The website of the 2008 workshop on megacities center is at <http://megacities.usc.edu/research/workshop-2008/>

2. *Outlines new outcomes and impact of the spent funds (1 page)*

The funds spent produced directly the following research products:

- Workshop on Megacities, November 10-11, 2008, which is fully described on the website of the Center on Megacities at <http://megacities.usc.edu/research/workshop-2008/>
  - a. Presentations: <http://megacities.usc.edu/research/workshop-2008/workshop-2008.htm>
  - b. Program: <http://megacities.usc.edu/assets/001/61445.pdf>
  - c. List of participants: <http://megacities.usc.edu/assets/001/61445.pdf>
  - d. Bios of speakers and moderators: <http://megacities.usc.edu/assets/002/62519.pdf>
  - e. Recommendations: <http://megacities.usc.edu/assets/002/62519.pdf>
  - f. Press coverage: <http://viterbi.usc.edu/news/news/2008/megacities-a-new.htm>

In addition to these immediate products, the workshop made possible the following workshops, centers, and proposals:

- Workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure, July 23, 2009, which is fully described on the website of the Center on Megacities at <http://megacities.usc.edu/research/workshop-2009/>
- Workshop on educational needs of megacities, January 2009, which was led by George Mason University.
- ORU created: Center on Megacities created in May 2009.

- NSF-ERC proposal on Sustainable Urban Systems, submitted to NSF in July 15, 2009.

3. *Summarizes new/continued directions for the project on which the funds were spent (1/2 page)*

As an outcome of the VSOE grant, the Center on Megacities was established as an ORU. Its website is at <http://megacities.usc.edu>. A proposal was also submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the creation of an Engineering Research Center (ERC) on Sustainable Urban Systems. The proposal is awaiting review of NSF. The research on megacities will be sustained through the Center on Megacities, which is an approved ORU, and will receive funding in parts through the Sonny Astani gift, and in parts through LADWP and other utilities companies and industry.