

Cita Press & Educopia Awarded \$750,000 from the Mellon Foundation

Cita Press, together with our fiscal sponsor and community cultivation partner [Educopia Institute](#), is thrilled to announce an award in the amount of \$750,000 from the Mellon Foundation. This grant will support ***Scaling Small: Partnerships and organizational resilience for Cita Press***, a three-year project involving the implementation of a strategic roadmap for capacity building and financial sustainability for Cita Press. The project will be led by Cita's founder Juliana Castro Varón, who will serve as Cita's Design Director, and the current project and editorial coordinator Jessi Haley, who will be Editorial Director.

Cita Press is a bilingual independent press, digital library, and creative community that publishes design and writing by women that is open licensed or in the public domain. Our mission is to broaden readers' scope of the types of identities and experiences that can be shared and received through books, and to challenge assumptions about who produces and who has produced knowledge. During *Scaling Small* we will expand our catalog's content and functionality, improve our digital infrastructure, pursue joint projects with Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) and other partners, and pilot and implement revenue-generating programs to sustain Cita in the long term. Our continued commitment to decentralization, collective knowledge production, and equitable access to knowledge puts our work in direct alignment with the goals and strategies of Mellon's Public Knowledge program, and we are excited to grow within the vital network the program has nurtured.

Scaling Small follows [Cita Press: Getting Fit](#), a two-year capacity building project that was also supported by the Mellon Foundation. Throughout *Getting Fit*, our partnership with Educopia Institute proved invaluable in helping us develop the roadmap we now have the resources to implement. We extend special gratitude to Jessica Meyerson, co-principal investigator for *Getting Fit*, as well as to Educopia's leadership team (Co-Executive Directors Meyerson, Racquel Asante, and Katherine Kim) and community cultivation consultants Lauren Dapena Fraiz and Brandon Locke. We would also like to thank each member of Cita's inaugural Advisory Board for their guidance: Janneke Adema, Vicky Checo, Katherine Maher, Jessica Meyerson, and Mindy Seu.

Finally, we are deeply appreciative of the Mellon Foundation's generosity and thought partnership. In a moment when many organizations helping to create an equitable and trustworthy information landscape (e.g., libraries, independent presses, public-interest technology initiatives) face large-scale disinvestment and varying existential threats, we treasure this opportunity and thank Mellon for their trust and commitment to open knowledge. We look forward to forming strong, thoughtful partnerships in this next phase, and to connecting with more readers and contributors.