

“Developing Resilient and Integrative Humanities Research with San Joaquin Valley Communities”

Community-Engaged Research Seed Grant, AY 2020-21

With expanded funding from the Henry Luce Foundation (2020-2022), we will continue to strengthen the training of Interdisciplinary Humanities graduate students through the integration of community-engaged research. Our initiative aims to support thematic and comprehensive community-engaged research opportunities and broaden training to facilitate humanities research collaborations between new and advanced graduate students and community stakeholders.

Through this research grant initiative, we aim to prepare our humanities graduate students for career paths in non-profit sectors and industry as well as academia, with professional skill sets in teamwork and collaboration, curatorial and ethnographic methods, and translational research activities including policy briefs, public presentations, museum exhibits, and performances, to name a few possibilities

In Academic Year 2020-21 two faculty-led community-engaged research projects will receive \$10,000 each as seed support to foster long-term projects. One project was selected as a model project during the original grant proposal phase (see note below). We now invite applications for a second proposed project, which can involve one or multiple IH faculty, with one point of contact. The project can be new or an ongoing community-engaged research project related to the thematic areas of creative placemaking, environmental justice, migration, and social memory. Another call for seed grants for two projects will be issued next year as well.

Beyond simply outreach, the proposed community engagement project should be a partnership with a two-way exchange of information, ideas, and expertise as well as shared decision making. The following list of characteristics of community-engaged scholarship is adapted from *Recognizing Faculty Work*, by Robert Diamond and Bronwyn Adam (1993):

- The activity requires a high level of disciplinary expertise.
- The activity breaks new ground or is innovative.
- The activity can be replicated and elaborated.
- The work and its results can be documented.
- The work and its results can be peer-reviewed.
- The activity has significance or impact.

A successful proposal, then, would have a statement of purpose, a design with humanities research methodologies, and intended broader impacts – reflecting a full exchange with a community partner as part of a team and expertise.

A description of successful stages of this project should be outlined, serving as an assessment plan, which will be developed and supported by this project. Noted should be the humanities research skills developed by graduate fellows on this project, with a proposed budget. This project narrative would be no more than three single-spaced pages. The appendix would include a support letter from a community-partner. While the seed funding is for a project that will end in August 2021, the goal is to fund comprehensive projects that have a multi-year trajectory and capacity to engage a wide range of graduate student fellow support. There will be a separate call for several graduate fellows, who will receive their own funding to work under the umbrella of the two faculty-led projects (see note below).

In addition to the \$10,000 seed grant funding, additional project support is included in the form of graduate fellowships and staff support (see below). The proposal's budget description should address seed grant funding by line item. Examples of what the seed grant funding can cover include faculty stipends, undergraduate fellows, data collection, and travel. Please contact us with any budget questions.

Two kinds of staff support will be available during the proposed comprehensive project:

- For funded projects, resources are available to develop a public-facing digital project archive with designated assistance from our Library including general website support and research dissemination infrastructure for projects. Emily Lin, UC Merced Library Digital Archive Curator is available to consult on project curricula and archival plans.
- For funded projects, support will be provided by Marisol Espino of the UC Merced Public Humanities Design Lab, which includes website updates and communications, event coordination and promotion, and mentorship and advice to teams on logistics. Marisol also manages the broader grant, including all grant expenditures and internal budget tracking. There are also limited travel funds for sharing projects at conferences and at community events.

Note: "Gateway to Merced" was selected as the model project for this grant. This ongoing and comprehensive creative placemaking and oral history project provides opportunities for collaboration. *Contact Professor Jayson Beaster-Jones for more information.*

In addition, up to eight Interdisciplinary Humanities graduate students will be awarded \$7,000 summer fellowships for their participation in the two funded faculty-led research projects. Once the faculty-led research projects are announced, graduate students will reach out to faculty about their research interests related to the overall project. Graduate students will apply for funds in **January 2021** and their applications will reference discussions regarding their role in the two funded projects. The funding will be received in early Summer 2021 though the expectation is that the faculty-led research will commence in Spring 2021.

Application Requirements:

- Have a community collaborator(s), describe their meaningful role(s), and demonstrate their agreement with the proposed project.
- Describe opportunities for graduate students to utilize Interdisciplinary Humanities research methods.
- Have an initial plan for disseminating research results to academic and community audiences.
- IH graduate students (and also faculty and community collaborators) are encouraged to participate in the monthly workshops being offered in AY 2020-21 to build knowledge and skills for community-engaged research. Students can enroll in IH 291: Humanities Seminars in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 to receive one-unit of credit.
- Faculty, fellows, and community collaborators awarded the grant will participate in the UCM Community-Engaged Research Summer Institute to strengthen networking and baseline transferable skills (2 days in late May, details to follow).

- One faculty member and one community collaborator from each funded project will have the opportunity to serve on the Community-Engaged Research Humanities Advisory Hub which will meet 4 x per year.
- Discuss a digital archive/presence for the project (and this can be coordinated with Emily Lin, UCM Library).
- Plan to present the research at an annual campus symposium.
- Faculty leads agree to participate in the upcoming summer institute if funded. They are encouraged to coordinate participation from graduate students and community members.
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Online Application

Name of faculty applicant:

Faculty applicant department:

Faculty applicant email:

Title of Proposed Project:

Other participating faculty member(s):

Project description:

Community Research Collaborator(s):

Who is/are your community collaborators and their affiliated organization(s):

Describe their proposed role(s):

Have they reviewed your proposal, and do they agree with it? (Yes/No)

Other sources of support:

Specify whether funding is in hand, pending a successful application, or whether you have planned a future application.

Graduate Student Research:

What graduate student research opportunities are planned?

How many graduate students can the project accommodate in Spring and Summer 2020?

For the application, faculty should describe the role of graduate students, but not specifically name the students unless they are affiliated with an ongoing project.

Research Dissemination

What is your initial plan for disseminating results to academic and community audiences?

Discuss plans for a digital archive/presence for the project

Timeline

Provide a timeline of activities for the grant period

Budget

Provide a proposed budget for how the \$10k award will be spent

Must specify line items