Andrew W. Mellon Funded Humanities Without Walls Grand Research Challenge 2021

- **Sep 15** Obermann HWW seed grant
- **Oct 1** LOI due (accepted via rolling review)
- **Nov 15** Full applications due to HWW
What is Humanities Without Walls?

• Mellon-funded consortium of 16 university centers launched in 2014, including the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies
• HWW has supported nearly 40 past projects
• Graduate students have been important partners
• The most successful projects are both studies in collaborative methods and creative approaches to complex challenges that showcase the value of the humanities in surprising ways and places
• [https://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu/](https://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu/)
Past Two Rounds of HWW Projects

• A History of World Music Recording
• Latinx Placemaking in the Midwest
• Coping with Changing Climates in Early Antiquity: Comparative Approaches between Empiricism and Theory
• Indigenous Art and Activism in Changing Climates: The MS River Valley, Colonialism, and Environmental Change

• https://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu/initiatives/HWW3-research-challenge/projects.html
Purpose of Third and Final Round of Funding

• When does humanities research benefit from collaboration?
• How can the humanities help address urgent questions?
• What forms and practices can the humanities take when the work moves beyond individual scholars and monographs?
• Most importantly: what are “reciprocal and redistributive” research practices as a method for equal and equitable partnership by design?
Unique Feature of This Round of the Grant:
Methodological and Ethical Emphasis on Reciprocity and Redistribution

• **Reciprocity** and **redistribution** are **methods** for engaging collaborators in genuinely equal and ethical partnerships—partnerships that are not one-directional (i.e., only from campus outward) or faculty-centered (i.e., hierarchical in ways that privilege presumptively white western scholarly expertise over other forms of knowing).

• Reciprocity and redistribution are **strategies** for equity-based change *by design*. These strategies aim to challenge the academic status quo by enabling community partners to participate on their own terms; to co-design and co-create transformative projects; and to be equitably resourced for their time and contributions.

• A commitment to **practices** of reciprocity and redistribution also opens up possibilities for new forms of collaboration between faculty and graduate students and staff; between HWW partner universities and regional and community colleges; between Predominantly White Institutions and Minority Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Tribal Colleges; and between each campus and its variety of public stakeholders.

https://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu/initiatives/HWW3-research-challenge/index.html
An HWW Project is one in which....

• Compelling research question developed collaboratively

• Problem best addressed by an interdisciplinary group of faculty, staff, graduate students, and/or community partners who are included in the planning process

• Project design uses reciprocal and redistributive strategies throughout and the project itself becomes a model

• Clear role exists for graduate students

• Parts of the process and project are public-facing
Who can be part of a research team?

At a minimum, to be eligible for funding, research teams must...

**EITHER**

• Include participants from at least two HWW consortial partner institutions

**OR**

• Include participants from one HWW consortial partner institution and one or more of the following--
  • Regional and Community Colleges
  • Predominantly Minority Serving Institutions
  • Historically Black Colleges and Universities
  • Tribal Colleges and Universities
  • Non-academic community or public partner

• **Project leaders** must be consortium one or more faculty members

• **Team members** can be faculty, staff, grad students, and/or public partners
Nuts and Bolts

• Projects run from Jan 1, 2022 to Dec 31, 2024
• Summer seed grants can support planning and grant design
• Letters of intent are due to the Obermann Center Oct 1
• Final proposals are due Nov 15
• Awards can be up to $150,000
Allowable Costs Will Be on HWW Website: They Will Likely Include

- Summer salary or stipends
- Support for graduate students (most easily offered in summer)
- Travel
- Consultant fees or honoraria
- Programming costs
- Limited food and catering
To write a competitive grant...

• Watch the Grant Strategy Workshops with Bill Hart-Davidson, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education in CLA at MSU [https://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu/initiatives/HWW3-research-challenge/sessions.html](https://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu/initiatives/HWW3-research-challenge/sessions.html)

• Find inspiration by exploring past projects on HWW website

• Ask for help in shaping a project and finding partners

• Use the following grids to develop your research question and project designs with possible partners
Develop Your Grant Idea Using These Grids from Bill Hart-Davidson
From Concept to Specifics: Courtesy of Bill Hart-Davidson
Obermann Seed Grants

• Application cover sheet: https://obermann.uiowa.edu/sites/obermann.uiowa.edu/files/wysiwyg_uploads/App_Cover_Sheet-Fillable-General.pdf

• Letter of interest that addresses RFP on the HWW website (nor more than 2 pages): https://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu/initiatives/HWW3-research-challenge/rfp.html

• Two-page CV from each project director

Full details: https://obermann.uiowa.edu/programs/humanities-without-walls#!apply
Questions?

• Take a careful look at the HWW website
  • https://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu/initiatives/HWW3-research-challenge/projects.html

• Contact Erin Hackathorn at erin-hackathorn@uiowa.edu for an appointment to discuss your project with Obermann Director Teresa Mangum.
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