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

• RFP from HWW & RFP for Obermann summer seed grant coming Mar 1
• Letter of Interest due Oct 1
• Full applications due Nov 15
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?
• 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](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
• 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 of 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

• RFPs for both full grant and Obermann seed grant coming Mar 1
• 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
Additional Information Coming March 1

FOR NOW....

• Attend Grant Strategy Workshops with Bill Hart-Davidson, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education in CLA at MSU (Online: https://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu/initiatives/HWW3-research-challenge/index.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

**Investable Ideas – A Heuristic**

- **Need**
- **Opportunity**
- **Activities**
- **Outcomes**

- Build Consensus
- Distinguish Yourself from Competition

**Investable Ideas – key questions**

- Why this project?
- What will we do?
- Why Us? Why now?
- What results can we expect?

- Build Consensus
- Distinguish Yourself from Competition
From Concept to Specifics: Courtesy of Bill Hart-Davidson
Summer Seed Grants: RFP on March 1

• When the HWW RFP is published on March 1, the Obermann Center will publish our own RFP for summer support to help groups develop grant proposals.

• Watch our newsletter and the Obermann website for details.

• [https://obermann.uiowa.edu/programs/humanities-without-walls](https://obermann.uiowa.edu/programs/humanities-without-walls)
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.