Humanities Research for the Public Good

Informational Webinar for Prospective Applicants

October 10, 2019
TODAY’S PRESENTERS

Annie Valk
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Associate Director for Public Humanities, Williams College

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Director of Projects, CIC

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HOUSEKEEPING

• If you want to participate in the webinar using your phone, select “Telephone” and dial (415) 655-0052. The access code is 513-954-251. The PIN can be found on the right side of the screen. You can also use a headset or speakers connected to your computer.

• Use the Questions box on the right to submit questions. Please include your name and institution.

• All voice lines are muted.

• Note: The webinar is being recorded and will be posted to the CIC website.
AGENDA

• Program Goals
• What is “Public Humanities”?  
• Team Member Roles
• Collections
• Undergraduate Research
• Public Programs
• Community Partners
• Application Process
• Timeline
• Other Questions
**Program Goals**

- Make better use of college collections for teaching, undergraduate research, and public engagement.

- Enhance the research, collaboration, and communication skills of students.

- Connect colleges with cultural and civic organizations in their communities.

- Demonstrate the power of publicly-engaged humanities research to address topics of community interest.
WHAT IS “PUBLIC HUMANITIES”?

Harrell Fletcher
TEAM MEMBER ROLES

- Each three-person team includes:
  - a full-time faculty member in the humanities (will mentor the student researchers and oversee student involvement in the public program)
  - a collections professional (campus librarian, archivist, or curator with expertise in using collections for research and programs)
  - an administrator (should be someone with responsibilities for public outreach or community partnerships and the authority to commit appropriate institutional resources)

- Q: Does the faculty member need to be “in the humanities”?

- Q: Can two faculty members serve as co-leaders of a project?

- Q: What constitutes a “senior” administrator?
COLLECTIONS

• Collections may be held by the campus library (special collections), archive, or museum.

• Projects can draw upon more than one collection.

• Proposals should include a clear description of the scope and content of the relevant campus collection(s).

• Proposals should draw explicit connections between the content of the campus collection(s) and both the proposed research question(s) and the public activities.

• Projects should not focus solely on digitizing or processing collections.
**Undergraduate Research**

- Proposals should include **specific** research questions to be explored by the undergraduate researcher(s) and faculty member(s).
- The undergraduate research component could take the form of a course-based project, an independent study, a stipend-funded research assistantship, or some combination of these.
- Q: How many student researchers can/should be involved in the project?
- Q: Does the same student (or students) need to be involved in both the research and public program components of the project?

Washington College
QUESTIONS?
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

• Your project should involve a true working relationship with a community partner—and the proposal should explain how both the academic institution and its partner will benefit from the project.

• The community partner’s commitment is to support both the development and the implementation of the proposed project.

• Ideally, include opportunities to involve community members in the proposed project at more than one stage.

• Some advice about how to find a partner ...

• Q: Can the community partner be a government agency?

• Q: Does the community partner have to be “local”? 
PUBLIC PROGRAMS

• Potential formats: exhibit, public walking tour, website, video documentary, podcast — or some other creative format for sharing research and promoting community conversations.

• Proposals should address the intended audience(s) for the proposed program(s), with a realistic publicity plan.

• Proposals should include a feasible work plan, with details such as the number of students to be involved and their roles in the project.
Examples of Funded Projects (2019-20)

- Augustana University (SD): “Re-Presenting” Native Americans in South Dakota’s Archival History
- University of Denver (CO): Engaging the History of the Jewish Consumptives’ Relief Society
- Wofford College (SC): Acknowledging Our Past: Race, Landscape, and History
QUESTIONS?
APPLICATION PROCESS

• Download the Instructions for Applicants from www.cic.edu/PublicHumanities.

• A complete application includes:
  1. A narrative statement (six pages)
  2. A preliminary project budget
  3. A letter of support from the institution’s president
  4. A letter of support from the community partner
  5. Brief biographies (<200 words) of each team member

• Application must be submitted online
THE BUDGET

• Draft a realistic budget.

• The budget form includes a list of things that cannot be funded ... and some things that should be included.

• Make sure to include appropriate expenses for public engagement (e.g., publicity and refreshments at public events).

• Cost-sharing is not required.

Download from www.cic.edu/PublicHumanities
**Project Timeline (2019-2021)**

- December 13, 2019: Application deadline
- February 2020: Participants notified
- June 29–July 1, 2020: Opening workshop (Washington, DC)

- Fall 2020: Undergraduate research activities begin
- Spring 2021: Public programs offered (some programs may begin in late 2020)
- April or May 2021: Closing workshop (location TBD) — will include student researchers
- August 2021: Final evaluation reports due to CIC
Final Questions?
FOR MORE INFORMATION

• Visit the project webpage at www.cic.edu/PublicHumanities

• Contact Philip M. Katz at pkatz@cic.nche.edu or (202) 466-7230

• Contact Annie Valk at avalk@cic.nche.edu

THANK YOU!