HUMANITIES WITHOUT WALLS CONSORTIUM
“The Work of the Humanities in a Changing Climate"
Seed Funding Program for Proposal Competitiveness
Due 06/06/2016

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
CAL invites applications with expectations to award up to three $2,000 seed grants to cover travel and meeting costs for MSU led cross-institutional teams to meet in Summer 2016 to develop collaborative project proposals for the Humanities Without Walls (HWW) consortium’s “The Work of the Humanities in a Changing Climate" initiative. Projects funded by this seed grant program are expected to prepare proposals for consideration for the larger HWW grant program administered by UIUC which will be due in mid- to late-October 2016.

The HWW is a consortium of humanities centers at 15 research universities funded by an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation “Grand Research Challenge” multi-year grant awarded to the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). The initiative is designed to link consortial partners in a common commitment to research and dialogue around a set of important, mutually articulated problems of broad public interest.

PROJECT TOPIC & GOALS
This current HWW initiative focuses on a broad question that resonates with many humanist scholars—namely, what is the work of the humanities in a changing climate? This rubric is intended to be both intellectually focused and capacious. In its narrowest interpretation, it calls for collaborative work on climate change, arguably the most pressing grand challenge of our time. We seek collaborative research in the field of environmental humanities, broadly conceived, as well as the development of new humanities-centered paradigms for thinking through the limits and possibilities of climate change policy. We do so out of a conviction that the current climate crisis has deep historical roots yet to be fully tapped; that it calls for new philosophies and theories of the human and the Anthropocene; that its fictions and visual cultures bear mightily on its material consequences, past, present and future; and that collaborative research on these questions and more is indispensable to scholarly expertise on the subject, in the humanities and beyond.

As a metaphor, climate change is pluripotent: it offers humanists the opportunity to think expansively about the meanings of “climate” and “change” as they manifest in their own research, and to bring their contributions to bear on cognate questions in the present. Thus “The Work of Humanities in a Changing Climate” also hails scholars who wish to consider the pressure of other forms of contemporary “climate” change on their fields of inquiry—from a changing racial climate to a changing economic climate to the changing notion of “the public” and what it means for the intellectual work environments of humanists.

Teams are free to interpret the theme of the “The Work of the Humanities in a Changing Climate" broadly and in conjunction with disciplinary specialties and in concert with interdisciplinary activities. Preference for funding will be given to projects that meet the requirements below and have the potential to be outstanding examples of engaged Humanities ideals. More information about the HWW project can be found at http://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu/index.html
ELIGIBILITY

- Project teams must be led by a full-time, MSU tenure system faculty member.
- Graduate students MUST be included as full research and intellectual partners.
- Research teams must include scholars from at least one additional consortial institution.
- Teams may include collaborators from non-consortial institutions, with the understanding that these members may NOT receive funding.
- Whenever possible inclusion of undergraduate students and community members appropriate to the outreach mission of HWW is encouraged.

PROPOSAL FORMAT & PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- **Cover Page** *(form attached)*
- **Narrative** *(3 pages max)* - Proposals should clearly discuss the following:
  - Need (in scholarly and local communities) and Opportunity (including the approach, experience, and expertise of the team) to launch the project
  - Project Goals, linked to an Activity Timeline and Resource Plan (budget)
  - Expected Results and Implications (including ideas for sustaining the project beyond the startup phase)
- **Budget** - Itemized budget requesting up to $2,000 to cover travel and meeting costs for a project team meeting to take place during Summer 2016. Include separate pages as needed.
- **CVs** *(2 pages max)* for MSU team members only

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Please submit one PDF file containing all combined documents by email to Barbara Miller *(bmiller@msu.edu)* by the deadline listed in the Timeline.

TIMELINE FOR PROPOSAL AND DELIVERABLES

- Proposals are due June 6, 2016 at 5:00 PM.
- Applicants will receive email notifications of award decisions by July 1, 2016.
- Project Teams should have plans to meet and spend seed funds (typically to cover travel and other costs associated with convening the team) by August 31, 2016.
- Award recipients will be required to submit a brief report describing how the funds were spent and a draft proposal for the external HWW program for internal review to David Prestel at *prestel@msu.edu* and *bmiller@msu.edu* by September 9, 2016.

INFORMATION SESSIONS & QUESTIONS

CAL will host an information session for interested teams to learn more about the program.
Monday, May 16, 2016, 12:00-1:00 PM in 120 Linton Hall.
RSVP: [http://go.cal.msu.edu/hww2016info](http://go.cal.msu.edu/hww2016info)

Program questions: Bill Hart-Davidson *(hartdav2@msu.edu)* or David Prestel *(prestel@msu.edu)*
Administrative questions: Barbara Miller *(bmiller@msu.edu, 517-353-4939)*