Mellon Community Engagement Grants

Purpose

As part of Muhlenberg's Mellon grant on Practicing the Liberal Arts, faculty are eligible to apply for grants for projects that focus on community engagement scholarship. Funds will support faculty-student collaborations that apply liberal arts thinking and methodologies to develop meaningful engagement and inquiry within a community. Projects must be intentionally connected to the humanities, the public humanities, and/or the humanistic social sciences. This is the **final year** of this three-year funding opportunity. We foresee offering ~10 grants.

Due Date

Proposals should be emailed to the Faculty Development and Scholarship Committee (FDSC) Chair Sherri Young by **noon on Friday, January 24, 2020**.

Eligibility

- Grants are open to all subject areas.
- Projects can begin as soon as the award notice is received, but no later than the summer of 2020.
- Projects must be completed by December of 2020.
- Projects may be tied to a course if the project has a substantive scholarship component; however, these grants cannot be used for new course development.
- Faculty and/or staff applicants should have relevant expertise. Faculty-student collaboration is essential.
- Individuals or teams of two or three faculty and/or staff may apply together. Teams must include at least one faculty member.
- "Community" need not be local Allentown/Lehigh Valley, although such projects are encouraged.

Award

- The grant is per-project.
- The standard grant amount is $4,600; however, additional funds can be requested if the project budget exceeds that amount.
- Funds can be used for expenses and/or stipends for faculty, staff, and students. Please note that Mellon funds generally do not cover travel or food, unless it is to support a visiting speaker, consultant, etc.
- The standard student stipend rate is $8/hour. Students can also work for academic credit if appropriate.
- The maximum faculty/staff stipend is $1,000 per person.

- The maximum duration of a project is 12 months.

Application Process

Submit a complete application in a **single** PDF file (12 pt. Font, double-spaced) that includes the following:

- A cover page (on the last page of this document), which includes a title for the project (25 words maximum) and an abstract (100 words maximum) that can be used in summary reports.
- A proposal (1000 words maximum) describing the project *and its intended outcomes,* including specific learning outcomes and collaborative goals for students. Proposals should clearly state what the project will accomplish for faculty, students, community partners, and the College.
- A preliminary budget of sources and uses of funds, including any known external funding.
- A timeline for project activities including IRB approval (if needed) and a search for additional funds (if needed).
- Applicants should provide evidence of preliminary agreements with proposed community partners/subjects as necessary.
- Any supporting documentation (e.g., background information).

Selection

FSDC will evaluate all proposals and make recommendations to the Provost. The highest-ranked projects involve a well-defined plan and already-engaged community support, are prudently budgeted, and provide the best opportunities for student collaborative research and learning.

Responsibility

Outcomes must include a project that can be published, shared, performed, or exhibited. "Student learning" is not, in and of itself, a sufficient outcome.

Appendix: Previously Funded Community Grants

- Faculty, students, and staff researched the lives of colliers on the Blue Mountain north of Allentown. Students studied soil samples and helped with data dissemination.
- Students and faculty collaborated to identify people to profile and stories to highlight for oral history interviews of local, primarily Jewish, textile and needle trade owners and spouses in order to preserve the history of this understudied group.
- Faculty and students utilized digital technology to analyze place-based economic revitalization efforts in Center City Allentown.
- Faculty and students worked with Community Fellows to tell solutions-oriented stories about anti-poverty / economic justice work happening across the Lehigh Valley.

- Students helped propose restoration efforts for Union Terrace Park in Allentown and presented their work to community partners.
- Faculty, students, and community partners produced an evening length theatrical performance bringing Muhlenberg and Allentown communities into close personal contact around the theme of immigration and changing demographics in the Lehigh Valley.
- A faculty member and student examined opioid addiction challenges among young veterans here in the Lehigh Valley with the aim of reporting the healthcare challenges and solutions occurring in this region.

Cover Sheet for Mellon Community Engagement Grants

This is the first page of the application. The complete application (as a single PDF file; 12-pt. Font, double-spaced) should be sent to Sherri Young (sherriyoung@muhlenberg.edu) by **noon on Friday, January 24, 2020**.

List the names of **all** project members. For faculty/staff, include department/office. For students, include major and expected graduation year.

Project Title (25 words maximum):

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Abstract (100 words maximum):