

## Civic Humanities Incubator Mini-Grants: Call for Applicants

With the support of a grant from the Mellon Foundation, the Engaged Humanities program at UP is seeking applicants for our first round of Civic Humanities Incubator mini-grants. The purpose of the Civic Humanities Incubator is to spark ideas, partnerships, and projects that mobilize the practices of the humanities to create connection, conversation, and collaboration with our local neighborhoods, the city of Portland, and the wider public.

### What types of activities will the Incubator fund?

Incubator mini-grants could be used to support a brand-new endeavor, or they might be used to sustain or extend something faculty are already doing in their teaching or research. In our first year, we are particularly interested in supporting a wide range of activities and projects; the categories below range from less intensive, lower-stakes activities like networking and hosting guest speakers in a class to more intensive and longer-term projects, like developing an event or publicly engaged research outcome.

- **COMMUNITY PARTNER NETWORKING:** the first step toward developing civic connections often starts with a meal. The Incubator will fund coffees, lunches, and dinners (up to \$200) for UP faculty to network with potential partners to learn more about their work and potential areas of collaboration.
- **LOCAL FIELD TRIP:** could adding an off-campus visit in the city augment your course or undergraduate research project? The Incubator will fund costs associated with local field trips, including \$250 faculty stipends for the considerable extra labor these visits entail.
- **CLASS/COMMUNITY COLLABORATION:** hosting a guest speaker from the community in your class can be a great way to develop a new connection and invigorate student learning. The Incubator will provide \$350 stipends for bringing in a guest speaker; these funds may be split—\$100 for faculty, \$250 for the guest speaker—to acknowledge the labor involved on both sides of these engagements.
- **CAMPUS/COMMUNITY EVENTS:** if you have an idea for a campus event that could bring UP together with our local neighborhood and/or the wider city, the Incubator can provide funds (up to \$1000) to defray planning and implementation costs, including guest speaker honoraria, catering, and supplies.
- **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT:** if you have an idea for a project that combines humanities practices and civic engagement, the Incubator can provide funds (up to \$1000) to support project costs and labor. “Civic engagement” here can signify working together with a community partner and/or creating a public-facing outcome.

## What counts as Civic Humanities?

Civic humanities activities and projects may originate from any department or discipline, but should use humanities practices like:

- open-ended conversation;
- storytelling and story collection;
- primary source/archival research;
- close reading and interpretation; and/or
- curation and exhibition

to:

- create connections with local communities;
- enable UP students to learn more about their place within the neighborhood, city, or region;
- engage issues related to contemporary problems like polarization and social isolation; and/or
- build opportunities or infrastructure for dialogue about timely, challenging issues.

## How do I apply?

All UP faculty (from any discipline or school, full- or part-time) are eligible to apply using the following process:

- Describe the activity or project (max. ~750 words) with specific attention to how it a) uses humanities practices to b) enable civic engagement
- Outline the goals of the activity or project and how you'll assess success in meeting these goals
- Include a timeline for the activity or project's completion
- For field trips, events, or projects, provide a detailed budget for associated costs
- Send the above in an email to [prf@up.edu](mailto:prf@up.edu) by Dec. 1; applicants will be notified of funding decisions by the first week of January.

## How will the applications be evaluated?

Applications will be reviewed by the Civic Humanities Working Group using the following criteria:

- **FIT:** how well does the activity or project fit the civic humanities parameters as outlined above?
- **FEASIBILITY OF THE ACTIVITY/PROJECT:** does it seem thoughtfully organized & likely to succeed?
- **PAYOFF OF THE ACTIVITY/PROJECT:** does it have the potential to seed further connection with local communities?

## What if I'm interested in applying, but am not quite sure about my idea?

Come talk to us about it! The mission of the Incubator is to help grow innovative ideas for intellectually exciting, civically-engaged work at UP and we would love to help you brainstorm how you might transform a concept into a concrete activity or project. We can offer support at all stages of work—from building out the initial idea before you apply to project development and implementation. Send an email to Jen McDanel ([mcdanel@up.edu](mailto:mcdanel@up.edu)) and/or Molly Hiro ([hiro@up.edu](mailto:hiro@up.edu)) with questions or to set up a time to chat.