

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Just Futures Initiative

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Campus Guidelines

Campus review process

Campus is undertaking an internal review process to ensure that pre-proposal submissions from Illinois faculty are well-aligned with the Mellon Foundation's goals under the *Just Futures Initiative*. Please see the information below about the internal process.

KEY DATES (CAMPUS)

- Information Session with Office of Foundation Relations: **August 25, 12:30 PM**
[Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 942 8291 0019 PW: 007533
- Campus deadline for two-page concept papers: **September 4, 2020, 5:00 pm CST**
- Applicants notified: **no later than September 11, 2020**

Guidelines: two-page concept paper

Please submit a concept paper of no more than **TWO PAGES** to:
foundationrelations@illinois.edu

If the campus review committee determines that your project aligns with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's *Just Futures Initiative*, you will then prepare the required application to the Foundation.

Your two-page concept paper should include the following:

Project Description and Significance:

- A brief statement of the ways the project would take a multidisciplinary approach to addressing racial justice.
- A short description of the ways your team would plan to enact that work.
- List of proposed products from the work.
- A clear statement of the ways the work would benefit society and contribute to the public understanding of the humanities and the role they play in the creation of socially just futures.

Overview

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has invited the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to submit proposals to the ***Mellon Just Futures Initiative***. This competition will provide awards of up to \$5 million to be used over a 2-3 year period in support of multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary collaborations that will generate innovative projects, scholarship, pedagogies, and curricula that focus on racial justice.

This competition aims to provide support for exceptional, innovative, visionary work that is led by and centered in the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences but that is disciplinarily inclusive. Mellon encourages collaborations that include a wide range of partners, including institutionally unaffiliated scholars, independent artists, and a range of possible community partners. The Foundation also encourages collaborations among institutions from various sectors of higher education including liberal arts colleges and community colleges.

The Foundation expects the multi-disciplinary aspect of each proposal to be prioritized and will not award support to teams that intend to develop individual projects under a single conceptual framework. Additional credit will be given to proposals that describe a single effort towards which collaborators work in a deeply integrated fashion, and that prioritize the creation of innovatively assembled, diverse, and inclusive teams. Funded teams will produce work that benefits society and contributes to the ways the public understands the humanities and the role they play in the creation of socially just futures

This open call thus seeks visionary proposals that begin with expertise based in the humanities and utilize a multi-disciplinary approach to addressing racial justice in ways that are in keeping with the Higher Learning program's above-listed foci, asking questions such as (but not limited to):

- What might we learn from the study of past periods of crisis and disruption, and how might those lessons lead us to cultural and social transformation in the present?
- What are the future possibilities for structures that elevate, make visible, liberate, and help individuals and communities to thrive?
- How might the humanities and higher education more generally be productively transformed to achieve greater and more equitable access, demographic transformation, and to support new ways of knowing and new modes of knowledge production? And how might those transformations be linked to the generation of a more just and equitable society?

Grant awards may be used for purposes such as (but not limited to):

- Course releases for participating faculty;
- Stipends/honoraria for community partners;
- Salaries for visiting artists, scholars, and “in-residence” fellows;•Pre-doctoral fellowships;
- Post-doctoral fellowships;
- Funds to support programming related to the project;
- Undergraduate research fellowships/stipends;
- Supplies and library resources that may be required for the research project (subject to Foundation approval);
- Salary supplement or course buyout for the collaboration coordinator who must be a faculty member at the institution receiving the award;
- Equipment necessary to the project with the exception of computers;
- Up to 10 percent of funds to administrative and occupancy costs.

KEY DATES (MELLON)

- Application deadline (to Mellon): Sept. 23, 2020 at 3:00 pm ET
- Finalists notified: Oct. 12, 2020
- Final proposal deadline: Nov. 4, 2020 (for finalists only)
- Final notification: December 11, 2020 (public announcement to follow)