



## **Fellowship Opportunity**

### *Climates of Inequality and the COVID Crisis: Building Leadership at Minority Serving Institutions Fellowship*

#### **Grant Details**

- Amount: Fellowship package comprising:
  - Faculty Fellowship: \$10,000
  - Community Organization/Leader Fellowship: \$10,000
  - Student Fellowship: \$5,650
  - Funds for public humanities project production: \$5000
- Tenure: twelve consecutive months starting July 2022 ending June 2023. Courses/learning experiences must take place in the 2022-23 academic year.
- Completed applications must be submitted via email to [raquel.escobar@rutgers.edu](mailto:raquel.escobar@rutgers.edu) no later than 9 pm Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, January 18, 2022.
- Notification will be sent via email by March 31, 2022

#### **Summary**

The Humanities Action Lab is pleased to invite applications for the second cohort of *Climates of Inequality and the COVID Crisis: Building Leadership at Minority Serving Institutions*, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. HAL seeks to support a new generation of “front-line” climate leaders to use public humanities to build public engagement in just climate solutions and responses to the pandemic. A package of three fellowships will be awarded to each locality selected, supporting faculty (\$10,000), community organizations (\$10,000), and student fellowships (\$5650).

HAL’s collaboration and co-curation approach centers the needs of community partners and frontline communities. We seek faculty and community partners who are willing to engage in a course and project collaboration about environmental justice during the 2022-23 AY, resulting in a co-created public humanities media piece on a history and current experience of environmental justice in your locality, for inclusion in the [Climates of Inequality](#) traveling

exhibition. Faculty and community partners should apply together, demonstrating an existing commitment to working together on a shared project.

### **Fellowships and other support**

Fellowships are intended to support the extra labor this type of collaboration takes.

Faculty fellowships (\$10,000) are meant to support the development, research, planning, and execution of the related course and collaboration for this fellowship, as the faculty member determines. Approved activities could include: course releases, faculty summer stipend, equipment, other research-related resources, additional student research funds, and additional funds for community partners. Faculty fellowships will be released to the faculty's university to disburse. This fellowship program does not allow for indirect costs or institutional administrative fees from the budget.

Community partner fellowships (\$10,000) are meant to support the development, planning, and execution of the collaboration, including paying for the labor of staff. Partners have utilized funds for labor, supplies for community events related to the collaboration, and honorarium for community members involved in collaboration. Fellowship can be paid directly to the organization or through the faculty partner's university.

Student fellowships (\$5650) can be awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student to: 1) support the HAL faculty point person to plan and develop the project-based, community-collaborative course through which students and communities create their local "chapter" of COI; 2) intern at either the partnering community organization or cultural institution to prepare for public engagement when COI comes to their locality. It is recommended to address in your project statement how you might structure the student fellowship for your collaboration. Student fellowships will be disbursed to the faculty partner's university.

In addition to the fellowship funding, HAL provides:

- Funding for each faculty, community, and student fellow to travel to a multi-day summer institute with members of both cohorts, at Rutgers University-Newark, in Summer 2022.
- \$5000 in funding for production of each local team's public humanities projects, and a digital and physical platform for sharing them with the public: the [Climates of Inequality](#) website and nationally traveling exhibit, [scheduled to open in 5 cities through at least 2023](#).
- "Media Mentors" who can provide technical guidance on student/community media production and limited post-production polishing
- Regular virtual meetings to exchange ideas and experience and build community through a translocal mutual mentorship structure, that fosters supportive relationships across age, experience, and geography
- Guidance and resources on course development, partnership design, and mutual aid storytelling strategies

Those selected will be joining the initiative's first cohort, composed of Environmental Justice organizations and humanities faculty across the country who are thinking about and

implementing new models for how memory, history, and storytelling can act as a strategy for climate justice/ COVID justice. The current cohort includes:

- Rutgers University-Newark (HAL Hub) + Newark Water Coalition, New Jersey
- Shaw University + North Carolina Environmental Justice Network (NCEJN), North Carolina
- University of Illinois-Chicago + Alianza Americas & Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, Illinois
- University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez + Come Colegial, Puerto Rico
- University of California-Riverside + People's Collective for Environmental Justice, California
- California State University Northridge + Padres Pioneros, California
  - Deferred to cohort 2

### **ELIGIBILITY**

The application must be developed and **submitted jointly by the faculty and community partner.**

- **Faculty Fellows:**
  - must be full-time faculty at a Minority-Serving Institution. Applications from universities already included in the cohort are not currently being accepted. Projects that add to the diversity of voices, issues, and geography represented in our first cohort are highly encouraged!
  - Faculty can apply individually or in teams of 2, though the fellowship amount will remain the same. For team applications, partnerships between junior and senior faculty designed to enable participation from junior faculty are encouraged.
  - do not need to be experts in environmental justice but must be willing to embed environmental justice history curriculum in one of their classes and work with a community organization partner to co-create a public humanities project along that theme. Faculty should demonstrate experience doing project-based public humanities work and collaborating with community partners outside of the university.
  - must include a letter of support from their departmental chair or school dean that includes a commitment of matching support, either financial or in-kind support. Some examples are: tuition waivers for student fellows, faculty course release, additional funds for project development.
- **Community Fellows:** Teams can include multiple community partners, though the fellowship amount will remain the same. HAL defines community partners as organizations that:
  - Are led by or working primarily and directly with frontline communities/people who are directly impacted by EJ issues.
  - Have a track record of representing and collaborating with frontline communities, able to demonstrate engagement with individuals from those communities in the project.
  - Legacy humanities organizations are not eligible. Questions about eligibility can be directed to: [raquel.escobar@rutgers.edu](mailto:raquel.escobar@rutgers.edu)

- **Students Fellows:**
  - are selected by the faculty fellow
  - can be graduate or undergraduate
  - can play a variety of roles to support the faculty and community fellows, as well as the student participants.
  - will participate in mutual mentorship across the cohort
- **Public Humanities media project:**
  - can be in a variety of formats, from short videos to podcasts to printed infographics.
  - must be co-created by students in the faculty's class and community partners
  - must be about environmental justice history in the fellows' locality
  - must be able to be integrated into the Climates of Inequality platforms or replicated in other sites (for instance if it is a performance or process). For examples review some of the work our partners have created: [Climates of Inequality](#)

### Evaluation Criteria

The strongest proposals will explain/demonstrate that their projects have:

- Established relationships between the faculty and community partners
- Clearly identified and centered “front-line” community needs/stories in the collaboration.
- Clearly identify what local environmental justice issue the collaboration is attending to.
- Clear roles and responsibilities for faculty, community, and student fellows including learning objectives and potential parameters of student participation.
- Developed mechanisms for potential continued community involvement and/or community review process.
- Realistic plan for producing public humanities project within the academic year
- Clearly articulated how the resources/fellowship will enable appropriate staff/leadership to engage in the partnership to the level the proposed collaboration requires.
- Discuss how the fellowship will enable participants to build lasting infrastructure at both organizations to sustain the work beyond the tenure of the fellowship (relationships, ongoing courses, commitment to decolonial and anti-racist methodologies, other structures).

### Application Requirements

- **Application Cover Letter that includes:**
  - Contact information for faculty and community partner(s) applying and a brief description (1-2 paragraph) of the proposed project.
- **Project narrative/proposal.** In no more than six pages, double spaced, proposals should:
  - Provide an overview of proposed collaboration including:
    - Course plan

- What existing course will you embed environmental justice curriculum into, or what new course or learning experience will you be offering?
- Public humanities project
  - What is the local environmental justice issue you are seeking to address? How is it important to your communities?
  - How does your public humanities project offer a way of engaging your students and communities in the issue that supports the needs/work of the community partner organization? How is your humanities approach particularly helpful in your context?
  - A sketch of what the media/outcome might be, even if it changes.
  - What kind of media might you work in and/or what format might your public humanities project be in?
  - How is the potential format of your project particularly suited to addressing your EJ issue in your local context?
- Clearly articulate why partners are working together and how collaboration will be mutually beneficial
- Clearly articulate how the resources/fellowship will enable appropriate staff/leadership to engage in the partnership to the level the proposed collaboration requires. Please include how you would structure each of the fellowships (faculty, student and community partner) and resources to fill the gaps that currently act as obstacles to this collaboration.
- **Project timeline:** In one-page outline a realistic time frame for achieving stated goals
- **List of the names and institutional affiliations of members of the project team** and a brief description of each member's role(s) and capacities on the project
- **Letter of Endorsement for faculty fellows** from Department Chair or higher at the faculty's university. The letter should confirm the institution's support for faculty's time on the project (including permission for course release, if faculty is using the fellowship in this way), and identify matching support from the university for faculty's participation, either in-kind or cash.
- **Letter of Endorsement for community fellows** from Executive Director or other leadership at the community partner organization. The letter should release/support the staff person to spend time on the project. The letter should come from a leader in a position to ensure the organization makes time and space for the fellow to be available for this collaboration, and that the fellows' work supports the other work of the organization.

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