

## **Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Public Humanities, 2022–23**

The Humanities Research Institute (HRI), supported by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is sponsoring a Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Public Humanities for the 2022–2023 academic year.

The Public Humanities is an interdisciplinary approach to engaging audiences beyond the walls of the university. Combining methods, theories and practices from humanities disciplines in projects with a public- and/or community-facing stance, public humanities work models the value and relevance of history, philosophy, literature and the visual arts in action. That work can serve as a form of community knowledge-building and public engagement that make manifest the role of humanistic inquiry in civic life and culture. And, such work happens most effectively when it is built on reciprocal relationships with community members and/or partners. We are especially interested in proposals rooted in research-based projects that imagine, or extend existing, connections with contemporary, real-time issues.

At the center of the HRI-Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellowship is a one-year residency with the Odyssey Project, a free college-credit earning program for income-eligible adults seeking access to higher education outside traditional pathways (for information on Odyssey at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, please [consult the HRI website](#)). While in residence, the Public Humanities Fellow will participate in The Odyssey Project's activities, co-thinking and co-learning with the Odyssey Project staff to develop the public- and community-facing dimensions of her, his, their research. The Fellow will undertake a research project that explores themes connecting the Fellow's field of study, the public humanities, and the Odyssey Project as an example of community-oriented public engagement.

Please be advised that due to planning challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, engagement with the Odyssey Project and/or other community-related activities may need to be remote during the fellowship period. Applicants should consider the need for remote activities in their proposals.

To ensure that the Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellow in Public Humanities' research project has appropriate support and guidance, HRI asks that applicants identify a faculty mentor who will oversee the Fellow's public humanities project. The faculty mentor will receive \$1000 in research funds in recognition of their service in this advisory capacity.

Please discuss this project with the applicant. If you are willing to take on this role if the applicant is selected for the fellowship, please fill out the form on page 2 and return to the applicant for inclusion with the application materials.

## Mellon Public Humanities Faculty Mentor Agreement

Please enter the requested information, then print for the Faculty Mentor to sign. Please upload a PDF of the signed form with your fellowship application.

### APPLICANT INFORMATION:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

### MENTOR INFORMATION:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

RANK/TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

### MENTOR APPROVAL AND AGREEMENT TO TERMS:

In accordance with the University of Illinois Guiding Standards for Faculty Supervision of Graduate Students, I certify that I will serve as the Faculty Mentor for the above applicant should s/he/they be selected for a Mellon Public Humanities Fellowship.

I will advise this student on the above proposed project during the course of his/her fellowship year.

I understand that under the terms of the fellowship, I will meet monthly with the Public Humanities Fellow to help guide and advise her/his project toward completion. I will also meet quarterly with the HRI Assistant Director for Education and Outreach to share information, provide and receive updates, and solicit or offer feedback on the Fellow's progress. I also understand that by June 1st, 2022 I will submit to the Assistant Director of Education and Outreach a one-page report on the fellow's activities and my mentorship work. In recognition of my mentorship, I will receive \$1000 in research funds.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: