New College of Florida's Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant

New College and the Cross College Alliance in the Community: Strengthening Community Outreach and Engagement

Call for Course Proposals

In 2019, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded a five-year, $750,000 grant to New College of Florida to support curricular and research initiatives that preserve local history, integrate social justice work into artistic practice and teaching, and work with community members and groups on issues identified by the community on which the arts and humanities bear. The project is intended to provide pathways that allow the work done in concert with community partnerships to result in mutual benefit to the community and the educational programs of the Cross College Alliance (CCA) institutions. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the grant has been extended for an additional year; it is now scheduled to end on June 30, 2025.

We are seeking proposals from Cross College Alliance faculty for the development of credit-bearing courses that involve substantive community engagement and reflection on that community engagement. The grant will support the planning and development of semester-long courses that would initially be taught in Spring 2024, Fall 2024, or Spring 2025, as well as group Independent Study Projects (ISPs) that would initially be taught in January Interterm 2025. We strongly encourage courses that involve collaboration between faculty at different CCA institutions, and between CCA institutional faculty and members of the local community. You can read about some of the courses that the Mellon II grant has previously supported here.

Each of the semester-long **Course Development Grants** will include stipends of up to $7,500, to develop syllabi, identify and purchase course materials, plan off-campus visits, and strengthen community relationships. The funds are to be allocated as follows:

- $3,000 for each of two co-instructors, for developing the course and preparing curricular materials ($6,000 in total). If there are more faculty members involved, the team should explain how the stipend would be divided amongst the participants.
- Up to $1,500 for course materials and supplies, including, for example, textbooks, laboratory equipment, exhibition materials, printing services, etc.
- If necessary, candidates can also apply for up to an additional $4,000 as course replacement funds to hire adjuncts for each of the two co-instructors, to replace courses that are institutionally necessary and could otherwise not be taught (up to $8,000 in total).

Each of the **Group ISP Development Grants** are intended for ISPs that will enroll eight or more students, and will include stipends of up to $4,000, to develop syllabi, identify and purchase course materials, plan off-campus visits, and strengthen community relationships. The funds are to be allocated as follows:

- $2,000 for each of two co-instructors, for developing the course and preparing curricular materials ($4,000 in total). If there are more faculty members involved, the team should explain how the stipend will be divided amongst the participants.
- Up to $1,000 for course materials, including, for example, textbooks, laboratory equipment, exhibition materials, printing services, etc.

Grant Proposal Requirements

Narrative (1,000 words)
Please describe your proposed course or group ISP. Please address how your program explores initiatives that preserve local history, integrate social and racial justice work into artistic practice and teaching, and work with community members and groups on issues identified by the community on which the arts and humanities bear. Please also address how the program responds to a community need as well as how the program could build sustainable bridges between CCA institutions and the community that would continue after the Mellon funding expires. Please also let us know if you have previously received funds from this Mellon grant to develop a course, or other Mellon funding as well as other funding for a related project.

CCA and/or Community Partners
Please introduce the members of the team that will work on the development of the course, including faculty and participating members of the local community organization. Include CVs and/or relevant biographical information. Please indicate whether you have collaborated with the proposed partners or organizations previously, and if so, in what capacity.

Budget and Planning
Please provide a detailed budget for your program and a budget narrative as to how those funds will be used. Describe also how your team is planning to develop the course (conversations with other CCA partners, community members), develop materials, assignments, etc.

Reporting
Successful grant recipients of **Course Development Grants** and **Group ISP Development Grants** will be expected to submit **two reports**, with respective due dates as follows.

1) A brief **Progress Report** prior to teaching the course or group ISP.

    Spring 2024 Courses: Due January 15, 2024
    Fall 2024 Courses: Due April 15, 2024
    Spring 2025 Courses: Due January 15, 2025

    January Interterm 2025 Group ISP: Due December 15, 2024

2) A three- to four-page **Final Report** summarizing the results of the project.

    Spring 2024 Courses: Due May 15, 2024
    Fall 2024 Courses: Due December 15, 2024
    Spring 2025 Courses: Due May 15, 2025

    January Interterm 2025 Group ISP: Due February 15, 2025

Reports should include syllabi and course materials used in the course or ISP; reflections on how the course unfolded, challenges encountered, and ideas for improvement; and photos and materials to share for publicity purposes and for use in New College's annual grant report to the Mellon Foundation. Plans for offering the course in a future semester or Interterm should also be mentioned.

Teams will also be asked to participate in occasional meetings with fellow awardees and with members of the Mellon II Curriculum Committee, and, during the period of their award, to present a public individual presentation or participate in a panel discussion about their work.

Selection Process
Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria: alignment with the Mellon II grant's mission, creativity, innovation, feasibility, sustainability, scope, cost, and expected impact.

Please send proposals to mlopezzafra@ncf.edu.

Application Deadlines
Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through Monday, October 30, 2023.

Applications will be reviewed by the Mellon II Curriculum Committee on a rolling basis, with applicants being notified of their application's status within two weeks of receipt and no later than Wednesday, November 15, 2023.

Please do not hesitate to contact Maneesha Lal (mlal@ncf.edu) or Manuel Lopez (mlopezzafra@ncf.edu) for additional information or assistance, including for suggestions regarding potential project collaborators. We look forward to receiving your proposals!

About The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is the nation's largest supporter of the arts and humanities. Since 1969, the Foundation has been guided by its core belief that the humanities and arts are essential to human understanding. The Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom that can be found there. Through our grants, we seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive. Learn more at mellon.org.