



INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

Where voices of the humanities are brought into public life

The Institute for the Humanities (IH) is a center for innovative, collaborative study in the humanities and arts. To facilitate scholarly inquiry and communication, the IH provides year-long research fellowships for Michigan faculty and graduate students and short-term fellowships for visiting scholars and artists from around the world. Throughout the year, several series of events showcase works-in-progress and catalyze interdisciplinary exchange around emergent areas of humanities scholarship. For example, the Hub Series sponsors four curated exhibits in the art gallery and expands the reach of art practice and performance to the larger university community and the public.

Innovative fellowships set the IH at the forefront of scholarly accomplishment in the humanities and arts. Our programming places the humanities at the heart of public debate. Both Michigan scholars and short-term visitors from the U.S. and abroad nourish the university's rich intellectual environment. The IH is currently launching a set of curricular initiatives addressed to undergraduate and graduate students.

Drawing on Michigan's remarkable resources, the IH seeks to become a national leader in advocating for the humanities in higher education and serve as a national and international center for scholarly research in the humanities and creative work in the arts. To ensure the strength of this eclectic and invigorating community, we need ongoing support for a range of initiatives.

INSTITUTE STRATEGIC FUND

The Director of the institute needs expendable funds every year to offer resources that are critical to the development of the IH. Gifts of \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually to the Strategic Fund will provide unique opportunities to try new initiatives, experiment with new audiences, and infuse the institute with new programming ideas. Possible initiatives may include traveling humanities salons, innovative course development, production of multi-media white papers on public policy issues, and hands-on faculty development in new modes of scholarly communication.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES INNOVATION FUND

One of the major shifts in how humanists do their work is in the area of digitally-assisted research—from the level of multimedia scholarly composition and communication to the mining of Big Data for the study of large-scale phenomena. The institute needs to be an incubator for the conceptualization and implementation of collaborative projects in and on digital environments. Through its start-up fund, with gifts of \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually, the institute will seed new projects, help facilitate collaborative teams of faculty and students, and prepare teams to seek outside funding.

HUMANITIES IN THE WORLD

This initiative will fund collaborative projects with scholars and graduate students around the region, the nation, and the world. Gifts of \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually will be used to bring scholars in the humanities to Michigan from abroad to teach for a semester and to contribute to scholarly initiatives involving transnational collaboration or scholarly initiatives on transnational formations. Funds also will be used to pilot “collaborative classrooms,” bringing Michigan students together with students around the region and the world, similar to the blended classroom bringing U-M French students together with students in France. Also, this initiative will enable the IH to organize innovative global conferences/events on humanities contributions to the crucial issues of our times.



“My time at the Humanities Institute [was] devoted to [research for] my [next] book, *To Make the Slave Anero*, a study of the varied and often controversial ways that powerful myth makers in the South memorialized the slave past some fifty years after the end of the Civil War. I am especially interested in historical memory—the ways that people remember and memorialize the past. My research suggests that much of what we ‘know’ about the past reflects a series of ongoing contests over knowledge.”

–Jason Young, 2020-21

*Richard and Lillian Ives Faculty Fellow,
Associate Professor of History*



NAMED ART GALLERY

The institute's museum-quality gallery has gained national attention for the high quality of its four curated shows each year. Through a generous gift, the IH, over three years, was able to underwrite a new work by one of the exhibiting artists. Fully funding the gallery would ensure that the institute will continue the tradition of superb exhibitions that showcase the synergies between the work of humanities scholars and creative artists.

It will also enable the IH to expand outreach to undergraduate students and the general public, and to multiply the sites of curation across campus and in digital environments. An endowed gift of \$1M would provide a naming opportunity.

HUMANITIES AND PUBLIC POLICY FELLOWSHIP

The institute would like to provide a one-year post-doctoral fellowship, at a cost of \$1.5M endowed or \$70,000 annually, for a humanist working in a public policy arena—such as public policy and built environments, the expressive life, life-long learning and health, education policy, language policy, and social media and public policy. The Public Policy Fellow would teach a graduate course in his or her area of expertise and advise graduate students on public policy projects.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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