Call for Concepts

In the interest of maintaining a grantmaking portfolio that supports inquiry into issues of vital social, cultural, and historical import, the Higher Learning program at the Mellon Foundation invites ideas for research and/or curricular projects focused on any of the three areas outlined below:

- Civic Engagement and Voting Rights
- Race and Racialization in the United States
- Social Justice and the Literary Imagination

More Information
Refer to our guidelines document for further details on how to apply.
Concept and Funding

$250,000–$500,000 available, with durations of up to three years

The Higher Learning program at the Mellon Foundation seeks to support inquiry into issues of vital social, cultural, and historical import, and invites ideas for research and/or curricular projects focused on:

• Civic Engagement and Voting Rights
• Race and Racialization in the United States
• Social Justice and the Literary Imagination
Eligibility

Principal Investigator (PI)

The PI should be a [tenure-track or tenured] faculty member or dean in a program or department in the humanities or humanistic social sciences.

Not Eligible

Medical schools and centers and other health professions schools; engineering and other technology-related schools; business and management schools; arts, music, and design schools; law schools; and seminaries or seminary like institutions.

HOWEVER, architecture (historical or theoretical), Musicology, Performance Studies, and others at the U of M that might fall into a professional college, yet may incorporate humanities-based perspectives and methodologies, are included.

ias.umn.edu/opportunities
Overview of Process

Part 1: Registration / deadline: April 18
• Register with IAS and Mellon Foundation; IAS selects three concepts by April 25

Part 2: Application / deadline: May 16
• Three concepts submit application to Mellon Foundation

Part 3: Proposal / deadline: November or December
• Finalists notified by mid-September and develop final proposals for submission

ias.umn.edu/opportunities
Process and Deadlines

Part 1: Registration  Deadline: end of day April 18

Step 1: Register with IAS via InfoReady Review

a. The IAS registration form provides the information needed for the brief Mellon registration
b. Identify which of the three specified Mellon topic areas

c. Approximately 300 words summarizing ideas for potential project, activities, purpose and goals, and potential impact

d. A list of the people, institutions, and/or institutions that might be involved

Step 2: Register with Mellon

a. Use information provided from Step 1 to complete this registration

This process allows the IAS to review and select which three proposals to move forward with, and for potential applicants to gain access to Mellon’s system. From this pool of applicants, a selection committee convened by the IAS will choose three concepts to be submitted to Mellon. We will notify you of your selection by April 25.
Process and Deadlines

Part 2: Application
Deadline: 2:00 pm CT May 16, 2022

Step 1: Develop Application and Request Endorsement Letter
Develop a 1,000 word application statement, draft budget, and brief (100 word) budget justification no later than May 11 to send to President for endorsement letter.

Step 2: Submit Application
Finalize application statement, complete application form, and submit the application through the Mellon Foundation’s Fluxx portal by May 16, 2022.
More Information

Important Links and Resources
Find information about deadlines, process, and links to the IAS and Mellon registration forms on the IAS website at ias.umn.edu/opportunities

Questions?
Contact IAS Grants Manager Juliet Burba: jburba@umn.edu