Humanities Initiative Research and Teaching Fund

This fund, overseen by the Dean of the Faculty, is designed to award support on a competitive basis for collaborative scholarly projects proposed by Brown faculty. All projects must have humanists and humanistic objectives at their core, but there is no limit on collaborations that reach beyond the humanities to the arts, social sciences, natural sciences, medicine, policy, and other fields, and in fact such collaborations are encouraged. Proposed activities can involve working with colleagues either from Brown or from other institutions, but the benefit to the Brown community must be clearly demonstrated.

Examples of projects might include: joint or allied research activities; conferences; creation of digital resources; exhibitions or other forms of public humanities; new ways of using Brown’s special collections, centers, and other special scholarly resources. The kinds of activities supported could include long- and short-term visits by outside collaborators; postdoctoral fellows; specialized technical support; training opportunities for graduate students; and experimental teaching formats and approaches.

Specific examples of collaborative activities that these funds could support:

- Collaborative projects involving two or more Brown faculty members or Brown faculty and scholars at other institutions that would be advanced by sustained meeting or a period in residence at Brown and that would enhance academic life on campus (while the humanities and humanistic concerns should be central to these projects, collaborations with experts in other fields would also be strongly encouraged).

- Collaborative teaching, including both Brown colleagues and visitors from other institutions, which explores critical questions from a diverse set of perspectives across the humanities or between the humanities and other disciplinary fields. Some preference will be given for undergraduate courses designed to address a question of broad social and intellectual import (a limited amount of course relief funds will be provided, when necessary, to the departments of participating faculty members).

Review and selection of proposals will happen twice a year, with deadlines on April 1 and October 1. The Humanities Initiative Advisory Committee, a committee appointed by the Dean of the Faculty, will review the applications and select those most aligned to the goals of the Humanities Initiative.

Proposals should be 1-2 pages in length and include:

- An explanation of the scholarly significance and innovative qualities of the project
- Information on key participants and a description of how they will contribute to the project
- A budget for the entire project that shows all sources of support (already in hand or requested) and the specific costs associated with the request to the Humanities Initiative

Normally, funds will be awarded in increments not exceeding $5,000. Requests for collaborative projects of larger scope will also be considered, although available funding will limit the number of such awards.

Please submit all nominations and proposals by email attachment to dean_of_faculty@brown.edu with the subject line "Humanities Initiative Fund."

Questions? Contact Anne Windham (anne_windham@brown.edu)