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|  | 2019-2020  Humanities Truck Fellow Application |

# Humanities Truck Fellowships for 2019-2020

The Humanities Truck is an interdisciplinary platform designed to facilitate collaborative community-based research, scholarship, and exhibitions.  These collaborations take time and can take many different forms. The Humanities Truck Project Fellowship Program provides a year for the Truck Fellows to be able to use the truck to develop these community relationships. Full-time faculty (including term faculty), advanced Ph.D. students, and MA students engaged in a thesis project at American University are eligible to apply.

Truck Fellows are expected to build a collaborative process that involves community partners in each phase of their projects, from research and documentation, to interpretation, and scholarly creation in the form of accessible deliverables, exhibitions and performances. Throughout the year, Truck Fellows will meet together to reflect upon the effective practices of community-engaged scholarship, and also to share the findings of their own projects.

Fellows will receive substantial research funding ($10,000) for these year-long projects. The funding will be allocated to six projects. We are now accepting applications for Humanities Truck Fellowships for the September 1, 2019- August 31, 2020 season. Applicants must be associated with American University in order to be eligible to apply. The first round of applications is due Friday, May 10th of 2019. Finalists may be asked to revise their applications before Fellows are selected in June.

Please e-mail a copy of your latest CV and, if relevant, those of your AU team members when you submit your application. Also, you must include Letters of Support from your Community Partners.

Please email your file(s) to [humanitiestruck@gmail.com](mailto:humanitiestruck@gmail.com) by the May 10, 2019 deadline.

# Humanities Truck Fellowship Application

This application consists of the following parts:

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1. Overview of the Humanities Truck and Application

# About the Humanities Truck

The Humanities Truck is a fully customized delivery truck that serves as an experimental mobile platform for collecting, exhibiting, preserving, and expanding dialogue around the humanities. Using the truck, we seek to mobilize the humanities and democratize the sharing and production of knowledge by bringing together scholars at American University with community residents across Washington, D.C. Together we can create, interpret, and curate stories that can return to the communities they originated from and circulate throughout the metropolitan region.

The truck’s custom-design creates a unique space for facilitating participatory, cultural, and educational experiences in the humanities. It has the capacity to function as a recording studio, workshop and maker space, and exhibit and performance venue. People can engage with the truck’s interior and exterior spaces. The exterior features powerful speakers, an all-weather flat screen television, and brackets for attaching a 120” roll-down movie screen for film showings. The magnetized exterior wall of the truck can serve as an exhibition space or also be used to facilitate workshops. The interior of the truck is sound-insulated, equipped with air-conditioning, a second flat screen tv, and ceiling speakers. It is modular and flexible as tables and shelving can be easily added and moved. The space can function as a recording studio for doing oral histories, a digitization station, a workshop space, or a pop-up exhibit gallery.

# About the Humanities Truck Fellowship

The Humanities Truck is an interdisciplinary platform designed to facilitate collaborative community-based research, scholarship, and exhibitions.  These collaborations take time and can take many different forms. The Humanities Truck Project Fellowship Program provides a year for the Truck Fellows, full-time faculty (including term faculty), advanced Ph.D. students, and MA students engaged in a thesis project at American University, to be able to use the truck to collaborate with community partners to collect, create, interpret, and curate stories that can return to the communities they originated from and circulate throughout the metropolitan region. Truck Fellows are expected to build a collaborative process that involves community partners in each phase of their projects, from research and documentation, to interpretation, and scholarly creation in the form of accessible exhibitions and performances.  Throughout the year, Truck Fellows will meet together to reflect upon the effective practices of community-engaged scholarship, and also to share the findings of their own projects.

Fellows will receive substantial research funding ($10,000) for these year-long projects. The funding will be allocated to six projects, and we encourage but do not require proposals submitted by teams of researchers. The fellowship money will be treated as a research account accessible to the fellows that can be used to support their proposed community-based research projects. The funds could be used, among other things, for summer salary, hourly research assistance, honoraria for community members, equipment, archival duplication costs, research related services such as transcription costs, and supplies to support project specific community-based workshops, exhibitions, and performances. All equipment purchases will either need to be donated to the community or added to the Humanities Truck lending library upon conclusion of your project. Other expenses will need to be approved by the director of the Humanities Truck project and must align with the rules and regulations of the Mellon Foundation and American University. Your budget should include real resources that will benefit your community partners.

The Humanities Truck Fellowship committee will evaluate the applications and make their selections based on the background experience the applicants have with community-based research, the strength of the relationships they have already established in the community/ies they hope to work with, and the depth of collaboration envisioned for the proposed project in all its stages (from research, to interpretation, to presentation). The committee will want to see that the truck itself plays a pivotal and creative role in the proposal, and that the applicants are committed to meeting with other truck fellows through the academic year to reflect upon the effective practices of community-engaged scholarship. Lastly, the fellows will need to agree to follow best practices in the collection and preservation of digital content and produce two blog posts and a final digital exhibition highlighting the work they have done with the truck.

You can learn more about the [Humanities Truck Fellows for 2018-2019](http://humanitiestruck.com/projects/) on our website.

1. People and Groups Working on the Project

Please list all team members from AU and within the Community that will be working on your project. Please provide a Letter of Support from each community partner.

**Team Member 1**

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

Email address:

Institutional or Group Affiliation and Position (if at AU, include position, department, and program):

In a paragraph or two, briefly describe any training or experiences of yours that have prepared you to be able to successfully complete the collaborative, community project you are proposing.

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**Team Member 2**

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

Email address:

Your affiliation with American University (position, department, and program):

In a paragraph or two, briefly describe any training or experiences of yours that have prepared you to be able to successfully complete the collaborative, community project you are proposing.

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Note: Include as many or as few team members as you like. Projects do not need to include multiple team members from AU, although collaboration is encouraged. Projects must include community partners. Funding is allocated per project and not per team member.

1. Tell Us about Your Proposed Humanities Truck Project

**Title of Project:**

**Description of Project:**

In 2000 words or less, please tell us about the project that you would like to develop for the Humanities Truck. As part of your description, please define the community or communities that you will be working with. What is your current relationship to that community or those communities? Will you be working with a partner organization, group, or individual? If so, explain how you envision that collaboration working throughout the project. Will any AU courses contribute to this project? If so, explain what the coursework contributions will be. While classes can contribute to a project, your proposed project should last for the entire year and not be limited to one academic semester. How will the project develop from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020? Explain how the truck will be integral to the project throughout its various phases? What kinds of materials might the project collect and preserve, such as photographs, scans, oral histories, audio and visual recordings, etc.? Are you committed to including those in the Humanities Truck’s Community Archive assuming there is consent from the donors? What do you envision as the end products of this project? How will the community you are working with benefit from those products?

1. Your Project Budget

Please provide a budget for the cost of creating and running the various aspects of your Humanities Truck project. Your budget should equal the amount of the $10,000 fellowship award. The fellowship money will be treated as a research account accessible to the fellows that can be used to support their proposed community-based research projects. The funds could be used, among other things, for summer salary, hourly research assistance, honoraria for community members or organizations, equipment, archival duplication costs, research related services such as transcription costs, and supplies to support project specific community-based workshops, exhibitions, and performances. All equipment purchases will either need to be donated to the community or added to the Humanities Truck lending library upon conclusion of your project. Other expenses will need to be approved by the director of the Humanities Truck project and must align with the rules and regulations of the Mellon Foundation and American University. Your budget should include real resources that will benefit your community partners.

Are there grant opportunities you are able to pursue to supplement this fellowship award? Do you envision the award leading to further outside funding?

1. Additional Information

Please add additional information that you would like for us to take into consideration when evaluating your fellowship application.