

HUMANITIES TRUCK FELLOW APPLICATION 2021-2022



Humanities Truck Fellowships for 2021-2022

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 Fellowship Program provides a year for selected Truck Fellows to use the truck to develop these community relationships. American University affiliated full-time faculty (including term faculty), advanced Ph.D. students, and MA students engaged in a major research project are eligible to apply.

Truck Fellows are expected to engage in a collaborative process to build a year-long project that includes community partners in every phase of their project— research, documentation, interpretation, and scholarly creation in the form of accessible, public-facing deliverables, exhibitions and performances. Throughout the year, Truck Fellows will meet to reflect upon effective practices of community-engaged scholarship, discuss overlap in projects and opportunities to create connectivity between projects and across the entirety of the Humanities Truck’s work, and to share the findings of their own projects.

Each selected Humanities Truck Fellow will receive a substantial grant amounting to \$10,000 for their year-long project. The Humanities Truck Fellowship Selection Committee will choose six projects to receive funds.

We are now accepting applications for Humanities Truck Fellowships for the September 1, 2021- August 31, 2022 season. Applicants must be associated with American University to be eligible to apply. Previously funded Fellows are not eligible to apply. We encourage applicants to reach out to Project Director Dan Kerr (kerr@american.edu) prior to submitting your application, notifying him of your interest in applying and to gain feedback on your proposal idea. Applications are due Monday, June 1st of 2021 by 5:00PM. Finalists may be asked to revise their applications before Fellows are selected in late June.

Your application materials should include your application, a copy of your CV and (if relevant) those of your AU team members. You must also include Letters of Support from your Community Partners.

Please email your file(s) to humanitiestruck@gmail.com by the deadline: **June 1, 2021**

Humanities Truck Fellowship Application

This application consists of the following parts:

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I. 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

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Truck Fellows are expected to engage in a collaborative process to build a year-long project that involves community partners in each phase of their project— research, documentation, interpretation, and scholarly creation in the form of accessible deliverables, exhibitions and performances. It is critical and expected that Truck Fellows use the truck throughout all phases of their project. Throughout the year, Truck Fellows will meet to reflect upon the effective practices of community-engaged scholarship, discuss overlap in projects and opportunities to create connectivity between projects and across the entirety of the Humanities Truck's work, and to share the findings of their own projects.

Each selected fellow will receive a substantial grant amounting to \$10,000 for their year-long projects. Humanities Truck Fellowship Selection Committee will choose six fellows to receive funds for their projects. The fellowship money will be treated as a research account and will be accessible to the fellow to be used to support their proposed community-based research project. Funds could be used but are not limited to use for the following: 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 must either be donated to the community partners or added to the Humanities Truck lending library upon conclusion of your project. Your budget should include real resources which will benefit your community partners. Your budget must be approved by the Humanities Truck Project Director, and your budget and expenses must be approved by AU's Senior Contract Coordinator based on their alignment with the rules and regulations of the Mellon Foundation and American University.

The Humanities Truck Fellowship Selection Committee will evaluate the applications and make their selections based on the following:

- Applicants' background experience with community-based research.
- Strength of the established relationships between the applicant and the community/communities they intend to work with.
- The depth of collaboration envisioned across all stages of the proposed project (from research, to interpretation, to presentation).
- The centrality of the Arts and Humanities to the proposal
- A creative vision for how the truck will be utilized throughout the project

Furthermore, the Selection Committee will look to see that the applicants are willing, committed, and eager to meet with other Truck Fellows throughout the academic year to reflect upon the effective practices of community-engaged scholarship. Lastly, the fellows will agree to follow best practices outlined by the Humanities Truck for any digital component(s) of your project, including the collection and preservation of digital content and the production of accessible materials including two blog posts and a final digital exhibition highlighting the work they have done with the truck. These expectations are outlined in detail in the Humanities Truck Fellow Agreement, found in the appendix of this document.

You can learn more about past fellows on our website:

[Humanities Truck Fellows: 2019-2020](#)

[Humanities Truck Fellows: 2018-2019](#)

II. People and Community Groups

Truck Fellow

The Humanities Truck Fellowship is given to an individual who will be the Truck Fellow. That individual will be responsible for overseeing the project, including managing the project budget. Please provide the following information for the applying Truck Fellow:

Name
Address
Phone Number
Email Address
AU Position and Department
Resume/ CV

A one to two paragraph description of the relevant training and experiences which have prepared you to successfully complete your proposed collaborative, community project.

Community Partners and Team Members

Your project must include community partners who come from the community you are intending to work with. The project can also include team members from AU. These teams could include undergraduate students, graduate students, staff, community members, etc. Please include the following information for each community partner and team member:

Name
Address
Phone Number
Email Address
Affiliation/Position (as applicable)
Resume/ CV (if available)

Letters of Support

Each project must work with community partners outside of AU. These partners should come from the community/communities that the project will work with. For each community partner, provide a Letter of Support which indicates what their role in the project will be.

Note: Projects do not need to have other team members from AU. You may also budget for student support without yet identifying the names of students you plan to work with.

III. Project Proposal

Your Project Proposal should include the project description as well as several additional statements in the areas described below (*up to 3,250 words, total*).

Title of Project:

Description of Project (*up to 2000 words*)

Tell us about the project that you would like to develop with the Humanities Truck. Explain how you plan to use the truck in all phases of the project. As part of your description, please define the community or communities that you will be working with and include answers to the following questions: What is your current relationship to that community or those communities? Will you be working with a community partner organization, group, or individual? If so, explain how you envision that collaboration working throughout the project. How is your partner connected to the community you seek to work with? 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. What do you envision as the end products of this project? How will the project benefit your community?

Community Documentation (*up to 250 words*)

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 with consent from the donors?

Digital Strategy (*up to 250 words*)

What digital strategies will you embrace? How might you represent your project digitally? How could you incorporate your project into the [Humanities Truck website](#)?

Reflection on Community-Based Scholarship (*up to 500 words*)

Each Humanities Truck Fellow will engage in conversations throughout the project year with other Fellows in their cohort. These discussions will focus broadly on the work of community-based scholarship. What would you hope to contribute to these conversations? Additionally, we have funding to bring in at least two outside speakers during your fellowship year. Who might you want to invite to talk to your group and the larger Humanities Truck community?

Project Assessment (*up to 250 words*)

What measures will you use to assess whether your project is achieving its stated objectives and goals? How will you determine whether your project has benefited the community/communities you are working with?

Project Timeline

How will the project develop from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022? In your project timeline, indicate how the truck will be used throughout its various phases.

IV. Your Project Budget

Provide a budget for the cost of creating and running the various aspects of your Humanities Truck project. Your budget should equal exactly the amount of the \$10,000 fellowship award. Each fellow will have access to their fellowship money— through a research account— which can be used to support their proposed community-based research projects. Funds could be used but are not limited to use for the following: 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 must either be donated to your community partners or added to the Humanities Truck lending library upon the conclusion of your project. Your budget should include resources which will benefit your community partners.

Other expenses must be approved by the Humanities Truck Project Director and the CAS Senior Contract Coordinator based on their alignment with the rules and regulations of the Mellon Foundation and American University.

For the purposes of this award, you do not need to budget any money for the operating expenses of the truck (gas, insurance, etc.). Each project will need at least one approved driver. If you have a driver's license, a relatively clean driving record, and the willingness to spend some time training to drive the truck, you can be added to AU's insurance policy and become an approved driver. You may want to budget hours for a driver if you are not able and willing to drive the truck yourself.

Outside Funding

Are there grant opportunities you will pursue to supplement this fellowship award? Do you envision the award leading to further outside funding? Outside funding is not a requirement for this award.

IV. Additional Information

Please include any additional information you would like you think should be considered when evaluating your fellowship application.

Appendix

Humanities Truck Fellow Agreement

Note: Your signature on this form will be required if you are selected and choose to accept the offer and award to become a Humanities Truck Fellow for 2020-2021.

As a Humanities Truck Fellow for 2020-2021, I commit to the following:

Budget and Reimbursements

1. To provide an updated budget for the \$10,000 award. This budget, once approved by the Humanities Truck Project Director, will be essential for reimbursements. With approval of the Project Director, the budget can be amended throughout the award period.
2. To spend the entirety of the \$10,000 award during the award period from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021.
3. To submit receipts and justification statements where necessary for reimbursement purposes, to the Senior Administrative Assistant for the Department of History (Kara Hendrickson) and the CAS Contract Coordinator (Michele Mazzocchetti). It is best to get your expenses pre-approved by the CAS Contract Coordinator.
4. To either donate all equipment purchases to a relevant community partner or to the Humanities Truck equipment library at the end of the award period.

Using the Truck

5. To use the truck throughout your project.
6. To identify a driver for your project to receive formal training and approval to drive the Humanities Truck.
7. To work with the Humanities Truck office as early as possible to schedule the use of the truck, plan for the technological needs for your event, and prepare any equipment that will be checked out, as well as to fill out appropriate check out and check in forms.
8. To be flexible and coordinate the use of the truck with other Fellows.
9. To drive the truck safely and to be conscientious in your use of the truck and the project's equipment, including the wrap on the exterior of the truck— essential to the project's identity and a difficult repair and enormous expense to replace.
10. To return equipment in as good condition as it was when checked out.
11. To clean the truck after it has been used.

Attending On-Campus Truck Events

12. To attend at least one meeting with the fellows each semester to discuss the progress of your work and reflect upon effective practices in community engaged scholarship.
13. To attend the Humanities Truck Speaker Series in the fall and spring semesters. This will include one presentation from an outside expert in the field of community engaged scholarship and a separate meeting with the speaker who will consult with each Humanities Truck project.

Digital Products

14. To produce at least one blog post each semester addressing your project.
15. To document your project with photos and videos.
16. To commit to archiving the primary core products produced from your project on the Humanities Truck Digital Community Archive. You are required to supply the relevant metadata, as directed by the Humanities Truck staff to adhere to best practices.
17. To secure the necessary release forms that will allow for the preservation of your work.
18. To produce a final end piece that can be circulated with the truck.
19. To produce a digital mirror for that end piece which will be included in our web exhibits.

Project Assessment and Reporting

20. In coordination with the Humanities Truck office, to design and carry out an assessment plan for your project.
21. To report to the office when scholarly work related to your truck project is presented at conferences or in publications.
22. To keep the Humanities Truck office informed of any publicity efforts or coverage in outside media related to your project.

Signature

Date