



Humanities Corridor Central New York

2017 Annual Report to the Advisory Board

Executive Summary

This report encompasses the activities and administration of the Central New York Humanities Corridor during the period of January 1, 2017 through November 28, 2017. The report coincides with Year 3 of activities in the pre-endowment period years 2015 through 2018 (incorporating the recent No Cost Extension). Based on a review of all 2017 working group financial worksheets, end-of-year summaries, and other documentation, this report provides an overview of:

1. CNY Humanities Corridor 2017 budget and No Cost Extension for CY2018;
2. Budgetary and administrative policies;
3. Report of 2017 working groups, commitments and expenditures accounting for \$300,000 expendable gift made to Syracuse University in September 2014 (grant #31400637), plus rollover funds from the \$1,000,000 award made to Syracuse University in June 2011 (grant #21100640);
4. Update on transition planning for endowment period governance and administration as specified in the Corridor endowment proposal of July 11, 2014; and
5. CNY Humanities Corridor 2018-19 Planning Timeline.

Detailed budget information can be found in the Financial Status Reports compiled by Syracuse University's Office of Sponsored Accounting, to which this report is attached.

2017 Budget and No Cost Extension for Calendar Year 2018

Funding for the CNY Humanities Corridor's pre-endowment period (2015 – 2017) has been a combination of the \$300,000 expendable gift (grant #31400637, made in conjunction with the endowment award of September 24, 2014), and rollover of the remaining Phase II grant funds (grant #21100640), which was approved January 16, 2015. As of the 2016 annual report's

Revised Budget and Financial Report, the remaining available funding balance for calendar year 2017 was \$346,895.05. Of that total, \$49,556 was committed for administrative salaries and fringe, \$10,000 for the Mellon Distinguished Visiting Collaborator, \$15,000 for the Graduate Student Public Humanities Fellows at Syracuse, Cornell, and the University of Rochester, \$14,500 for faculty travel including the schools of the New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium, \$12,500 for web services, and \$5,000 for the annual Corridor planning retreat. Funding for working group activities, the single largest budget category, was set at \$191,306.

The 2017 Revised Budget and Financial Report covers the period up until November 28, 2017 at which date a cutoff was established for a period of No Cost Extension (NCE). At the date of the NCE request, the remaining budget totaled \$258,847.79. It is important to note that further invoices for approved 2017 activities continued to post through the first quarter of 2018.

On December 11, 2017, the CNY Humanities Corridor filed a No Cost Extension (NCE) request to the Mellon Foundation on the spendable portion of the Phase III grant. The reason behind the NCE request was due to a cost-savings during the pre-endowment period. This cost-savings resulted from both a lower-than-anticipated invoicing rate from working groups on approved grant activities as well as a six-month vacancy in the Program Coordinator administrative position. The NCE request was approved in a letter from the Mellon Foundation dated January 22, 2018. As a result, the CNY Humanities Corridor will remain on the grant through December 31, 2018, and the transition to the endowment will not begin until January 1, 2019.

For the NCE period, up to \$120,000 should be available to support working group activities across the Corridor's campuses (with the remaining funding going the other budget categories as specified in the NCE Revised Budget and Financial Report).

Budgetary and Administrative Policies

Per each institution's endowment investment and earnings, there will be different budgetary allotments going forward specific to each institution. Other program costs like those listed above (e.g. public humanities fellows, administrative salaries and fringe, visiting collaborator) will continue. In addition, there are specific program categories funded at each Corridor institution as stipulated in the individual endowment proposals.

Set in proportion to the anticipated payouts of CNY Humanities Corridor endowment at each of the three primary partner institutions, with Syracuse University's endowment supporting New York Six expenses, we have continued to target allotments of the \$100,000 available in annual pre-endowment period working group funding:

- \$60,000 for activities at Syracuse University/New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium Schools;
- \$25,000 for activities at Cornell University; and

- \$15,000 for activities at the University of Rochester.

While implemented with the intention of preparing for relative funding levels during the endowment phase, these targets also create an incentive for working groups to distribute their proposed activities across the Corridor's participating institutions. Groups which in the past may have held multiple events at a single Corridor location are now asked to rotate their events among the campuses represented by their faculty coordinators or to approach faculty with related research interests at other participating schools; the Principal Investigator and/or Project Directors may also suggest or facilitate these contacts when appropriate, however working group composition is determined by each group's faculty coordinators. This reinforces the Corridor's mission of increasing connectivity and collaboration among academic humanists throughout the region and fostering cross-institutional partnerships and resource-sharing mechanisms in emerging and established scholarly fields.

Priority in funding is given to working groups demonstrating active participation of faculty and students from multiple Corridor institutions. As a general policy, there is no carryover of funds for activities not completed in the approved performance period. In order to acclimate working groups to the endowment phase's partitioned funding sources, approved activities cannot be relocated to a different Corridor location without prior approval as this may affect the institutional commitment allotments.

In addition, in order to allow the continuation of support for numerous diverse working groups the Corridor has continued to implement the following general guidelines for pre-endowment, NCE, and endowment period working group budgets:

- New working groups are eligible for up to \$1,500 in planning funds to establish their faculty network and organize one to two small-scale events;
- The recommended single-event budget maximum is \$2,500; and
- The recommended maximum annual working group commitment is \$5,000 (for continuing groups with two or more activities taking place at more than one Corridor location).

In addition to maximizing the impact of available funding, these guidelines have continued to strengthen the Corridor's connections to host institutions through increased college and departmental co-sponsorships for working group events. Although the Corridor continues to provide funding to larger-scale programming (i.e., multi-day conferences and colloquia, public talks, screenings, and performances), these budget guidelines encourage working groups to engage in activities such as reading/writing groups, symposia, mini-seminars and workshops, that are highly focused on group members' research, enhancing the Corridor's scholarly network.

2017 Working Groups, Commitments, and Expenditures

Total commitments for working group activities, Corridor travel, Mellon Collaborator activities, co-sponsorship of Public Humanities Fellowships, Mellon Distinguished Visiting Collaborator activities, and facilities and administration costs (including staff salary and fringe) in 2017 total \$297,862. Of this amount, the CNY Humanities Corridor provided funding commitments totaling \$105,875 to thirty-three working groups.

| Corridor Location | Pre-Endowment Target Budget Allotment | Total 2017 Commitments |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Syracuse University & New York Six | \$60,000 (60%) | \$55,900 (53%) |
| Cornell University | \$25,000 (25%) | \$25,950 (25%) |
| University of Rochester | \$15,000 (15%) | \$24,025 (23%) |
| TOTAL | \$100,000 | \$105,875 |

Of the seven research clusters, the Literature, Language, and Culture (LLC) research cluster supported the majority of working groups in 2017 with a total of 13 active groups. The Philosophy (PHI) research cluster supported a total of six working groups followed by Musicology & Music History (MMH) with five working groups. Digital Humanities (DH) supported four active groups while the Visual Arts and Culture (VAC) research cluster supported a total of three working groups. The Linguistics (LIN) and Archives and Media (AM) clusters each had one active group. We are optimistic about potential future collaborations and growth within the Archives and Media cluster given recent participation and interest from various new faculty and administrators with connections throughout Central New York.

The 33 active 2017 CNY Humanities Corridor working groups hosted 54 activities comprising over 100 talks, panels, workshops, poster sessions, master classes, performances, and screenings, in which over 2,300 faculty, students, and other Corridor community members participated. Syracuse University and participating New York Six schools hosted twenty-one of these events (39%), Cornell University hosted nineteen (35%), and the University of Rochester hosted fourteen (26%). Detailed working group and event information is available on the CNY Humanities Corridor website: <http://www.cnycorridor.net/>

| Research Cluster | Total Commitments | N° Working Groups | N° Events Hosted | Median Event Budget |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| PHI | \$18,000 | 6 | 8 | \$2,500 |
| LIN | \$2,100 | 1 | 1 | \$2,100 |
| VAC | \$11,450 | 3 | 7 | \$1,800 |

| | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| MMH | \$19,375 | 5 | 20 | \$725 |
| AM | \$1,500 | 1 | 3 | \$475 |
| DH | \$10,750 | 4 | 10 | \$750 |
| LLC | \$42,700 | 13 | 25 | \$1,600 |
| TOTAL | \$105,875 | 33 | 54 | \$1,961 (avg.) |

Endowment Period Governance and Administration Planning Update

The CNY Humanities Corridor administration is currently Professor Gregg Lambert, Principal Investigator, Syracuse University; Professor Paul Fleming, Project Director, Cornell University; and Professor Joan Rubin, Project Director, University of Rochester. Aimee Germain currently serves as the Program Coordinator from the Corridor administrative office in the Syracuse University Humanities Center. There are additional administrative and budgetary staff members in each of the participating Humanities Centers.

As stipulated in the endowment proposal of July 11, 2014, approved by the Mellon Foundation as a governing document of the award, the Corridor’s administration shall continue to reside in the Syracuse University Humanities Center, and activities will continue to be coordinated at Syracuse University through the office of the Corridor Director, beginning in January 2019. The partner institutions shall be represented by Co-Directors at Cornell and Rochester, who will be responsible for the overall project administration and financial management through their respective institutional endowments. (See Master Collaboration Agreement, Section 2: Governance.)

Also following the No Cost Extension period and beginning in January 2019, the financial management structure of the CNY Humanities Corridor will be revised accordingly to process disbursements from the individual endowed accounts at Syracuse University, Cornell University, and the University of Rochester. The overall review and approval processes for Corridor activities will continue to be coordinated by Syracuse University and the primary leadership role of the Central New York Humanities Corridor will continue to reside at Syracuse University, where the Corridor will be permanently located in the Humanities Center. In the endowment phase, the financial management at Cornell University and University of Rochester will transfer to the Project Directors where the endowments reside. Spending will therefore be governed by each institution’s policies pertaining to the use of restricted funds (rather than through sub-awards from the grant at Syracuse University, as has been the case during Phase I, II, and the pre-endowment period). This arrangement is detailed in the Master Collaboration Agreement.

As part of the endowment transition, the Corridor will begin operating on an academic year calendar. As such, beginning in 2018, the current administrative structure will be supplemented

by a Central New York Humanities Corridor Advisory Board to meet annually each spring in planning for the next academic year. While the Corridor's primary partner institution Directors will continue to be responsible for the selection of Corridor working groups and projects as well as other Corridor activities (i.e., Mellon Visiting Collaborators, consortial workshops, faculty and/or student exchanges, and faculty travel), this board will serve an annual advisory function to the Directors of the CNY Humanities Corridor in the endowment phase.

At the annual spring meetings—the location of which will rotate among the Corridor's participating institutions—the Advisory Board will receive reports on the previous year's activities, programming and budget. Based on these reports, the Advisory Board will make recommendations to the Directors for the purpose of the following year's review and award process conducted by the Directors. The Advisory Board's composition, selection, and function is detailed in the Master Collaboration Agreement. The initial slate of representatives will be represented at the March 28, 2018 Advisory Board meeting.

We sincerely thank the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for its continuing support for the Corridor's mission of bringing collaborative research to the region's humanist scholars.

As Principal Investigator of the Central New York Humanities Corridor, I hereby confirm that this annual report narrative is accurate and truthful to the best of my knowledge:

Date: _____

Gregg Lambert
Principal Investigator
Dean's Professor of the Humanities
Founding Director of Humanities Center (2008 – 2014)

This narrative report was prepared by:

Date: _____

Aimee A. Germain
CNY Humanities Corridor Program Coordinator

Appendix A

CNY Humanities Corridor 2018-19 Planning Timeline

January – February 2018

- January **Finalize Advisory Board and Meeting Schedule**
- Jan. 15 **Deadline: 2017 Corridor Invoices**
last date for submission of 2017 invoices/receipts for payment

March – April 2018

- March 28 **Annual Meeting of PIs and Advisory Board: all day event**
rotating between Corridor institutions (SU in 2018, UR in 2019, CU in 2020, etc.)
- March 31 **Deadline: Narrative Report to Mellon Foundation & PIs/Advisory Board**
- April 1 **2018-2019 CNY Humanities Call for Proposals & New Website Launch**

May – June 2018

- May 15 **Deadline: 2018-19 CNY Humanities Corridor Proposals**
- May 16 **CNY Humanities Corridor 2018-19 Proposals Distributed**
for review in advance of PI meeting
- May 21 **Corridor PI Meeting**
re: 2018-19 proposal review and selection

July – August 2018

- August 1 **2018-19 CNY Humanities Corridor Commitment Letters Sent**
to approved proposals with starting dates fall semester

November – December 2018

- Dec. 5 **Deadline: Fall 2018 CNY Humanities Corridor Activities**
last date for approved fall 2018 Corridor events
- Dec. 9 **Deadline: Working Group 2018 Fall Report Deadline**
- December 31 **Closeout of Mellon Grant Period Funding**

January – February 2019

- January 1 **CNY Humanities Corridor Transition to Endowment Funding**

January **Finalize Advisory Board and Meeting Schedule**

March – April 2019

Early March **Annual Meeting of PIs and Advisory Board: all day event**
rotating between Corridor institutions (SU in 2018, UR in 2019, CU in 2020, etc.)

March 31 **Deadline: Final Grant Closeout Report to Mellon Foundation & PIs/Advisory Board**

April 1 **2018-2019 CNY Humanities Call for Proposals**

May – June 2019

May 15 **Deadline: 2019-20 CNY Humanities Corridor Proposals**

May TBD **CNY Humanities Corridor 2019-20 Proposals Distributed**
for review in advance of PI meeting

June 1-15 **Corridor PI Meeting**
re: 2019-20 proposal review and selection

June 5 **Deadline: 2018-19 CNY Humanities Corridor Activities**
last date for approved 2018-19 Corridor events

June 9 **Working Group 2018-19 End of Year Report Deadline**

July – August 2019

August 1 **2018-19 CNY Humanities Corridor Commitment Letters Sent**
to approved proposals with starting dates fall semester