Call for Proposals:

Public Events

The Lehigh Valley Engaged Humanities Consortium (LVEHC) seeks proposals for events such as screenings, talks, performances, and dialogues that are open to the public. Proposals are welcome from any Lehigh Valley community member, educational institution, cultural heritage institution, or community organization (e.g. area educators, church groups, institutions of higher education, community arts non-profits, etc.) whose work focuses on the Lehigh Valley. Unless otherwise discussed, events and projects must occur in the fiscal year in which they are proposed.

Introduction to the LVEHC:
Generously funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through June 2021, the Lehigh Valley Engaged Humanities Consortium (LVEHC) (http://sites.lafayette.edu/lvehc/) fosters exploration of personal, historical, and community narratives that have emerged in the past half-century in the region using methods of the humanities and arts. The LVEHC is guided by a steering committee composed of representatives of a dozen Lehigh Valley academic and cultural institutions.

LVEHC Main Themes:
- The diversity of communities in the Lehigh Valley over the past 50 years.
- The changing nature of work in the Lehigh Valley over the past 50 years.
- The process of story-making in the Lehigh Valley over the past 50 years.
- The evolving landscape, environment, and sense of place in the Lehigh Valley over the past 50 years.

Funding:
- Funds will be distributed in two even allotments: one upon notification of award, and one upon completion of the post-award responsibilities.
- Funding must be distributed to a sponsoring institution who will manage the funds in conjunction with the awardee. If the awardee’s home or partner organization/institution is unable or unwilling to receive the grant funds, the awardee will be responsible for declaring the funds on their tax returns.
- Awardees will be responsible for retaining receipts related to grant expenditures.

Application Process:
- Submit a one-page (250 words) proposal, accompanied by any relevant letters of support, to the Steering Committee co-directors via email at LVEngagedHumanities@gmail.com, or by filling out the Proposal Submission Form online.
- Applications will be reviewed by the LVEHC steering committee; responses can be expected approximately three weeks after proposal submission.
Proposals should contain:

- Description of the proposed event including proposed date, venue, subject and audience;
- List of any collaborating organizations (including a brief letter of support from any partnering staff/faculty at collaborating organization);
- An itemized budget outlining proposed expenses;
- Anticipated impact on the proposed audience (students, community, etc.);
- Statement of how the proposed event aligns with the LVEHC themes (see above).

Considerations:

- Special consideration will be given to projects that involve two or more institutions (for instance, an LVAIC school and a community organization, a community college and a public library, a local school and an art museum, etc.).
- Special consideration will be given to projects that enhance or connect with the activities of the Allentown Arts Museum, Easton Area Public Library, Karl Stirner Arts Trail, and/or Sigal Museum.
- Proposed events that align with the LVEHC Themes (see above) will be prioritized for funding.
- If multiple proposals are received for an event on the same date the steering committee may request that the date of event(s) be altered.

Post-award Responsibilities:
A paragraph-long statement and a minimum of two images from the event will be required within 30 days of the conclusion of the activity. This statement may be incorporated into a blog post that will be shared on the LVEHC website and will also be used in grant reporting.

LVEHC Mellon Grant Steering Committee:
Andrea Smith (smithal@lafayette.edu), Grant Co-Director, Lafayette College
Charlotte Nunes (nunesc@lafayette.edu), Grant Co-Director, Lafayette College
Allentown Art Museum
Cedar Crest College
DeSales University
Easton Area Public Library
Karl Stirner Arts Trail
Lehigh University
Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC)
Lehigh Valley Research Consortium (LVRC)
Moravian College
Muhlenberg College
Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society / Sigal Museum

LVEHC Mellon Grant Coordinator: Kate Pitts (pittsk@lafayette.edu)

* Calls for Proposals are subject to change. Please consult the website (http://sites.lafayette.edu/lvehc) for up to date guidelines and restrictions.
Allowable Expenditures and Funding Restrictions:

Allowable Expenditures:
- Stipends
  - Flat fee amounts granted to faculty, librarians, community partners, researchers and others
  - These amounts do not require budget breakdowns
- Technology
  - Rental or purchase of hardware such as photography and recording equipment
  - Purchase or licensing of software, cloud storage, etc.
- Honoraria for speakers, performers, and community partners
- Archival acquisitions, digitization costs, and other research-related expenses
- Books, films, licensing fees, art supplies and other expenses for classes and public events

Andrew W. Mellon foundation grants cannot be used for any of the following. Therefore, budgets submitted to LVEHC should not include these items:
- Food and catering expenses
- Venue rentals
- Projects in social sciences or STEM fields
  - However, proposals exploring humanities-related social sciences, and productive relationships between the arts and humanities and the natural and social sciences will be considered
- Endowment management fees
- One-off conferences
- Undergraduate travel, tuition, or financial aid

For further information on the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s grantmaking policies and guidelines, please visit: https://mellon.org/grants/grantmaking-policies-and-guidelines/grantmaking-policies/