2026-2027 HUB RESIDENCIES
Call For Proposals

ABOUT THE LIBERAL ARTS ENGAGEMENT HUB
The Liberal Arts Engagement Hub (The Hub) in the University of Minnesota's College of Liberal Arts (CLA) is a transformational initiative intended to deepen the college's culture of engagement with community members and community organizations beyond the University. Our mission is to facilitate reciprocal and trusting partnerships between scholars in the arts, humanities, and social sciences and the community to respond to important social challenges.

Housed in a newly renovated Pillsbury Hall on the East Bank of the Twin Cities campus, The Hub is envisioned as a dynamic physical and virtual space where members of the University and community members come together in a spirit of co-creation and mutuality. It is a place where members of the University become the students of the public, educated by and partnering with community members around critical topics of shared interest.

The Hub strives to be anti-racist and decolonial by engaging in practices and programming that collectively enhance equity, increase access, combat systemic racism, and are aligned with the fact that The Hub exists on Dakota land.

ABOUT HUB RESIDENCIES
The Hub is currently seeking proposals for 2026-2027 Residencies, which run from July 2026 through June 2027. Hub Residencies support community-based, collaborative projects in the arts, humanities, and humanistic social sciences that engage a topic of important public interest. Residencies involve at least one community partner beyond the University (individual, group, or organization) and one person (faculty, staff, or graduate student) affiliated with the University of Minnesota's College of Liberal Arts.

Resources Provided
- Up to $15,000 (full funding for requests is not guaranteed).

- Priority access to the Hub space, which includes a large open space designed to accommodate a variety of activities, hybrid event technology, a shared office workspace, a kitchenette, and reception area.
- Community partner access to University resources, depending on the nature of the project. These might include (but are not limited to) UMN Libraries privileges, media support, subject expertise, technological assistance, or Liberal Arts Technology and Innovation Services (LATIS) services.
- Assistance with event promotion and project amplification via The Hub's network, including our website, biweekly newsletter, social media channels, and digital display signage.
- The opportunity for community and connection with other Hub residents.
- Community partner access to the University's Google workspace, virtual private network (VPN), and secure WiFi.

If you would like to see the Hub space in person, contact Amanda Steepleton, Hub Assistant Director, at stee0260@umn.edu or 612-624-1811 to arrange a visit.

Eligibility
Applications will be accepted from any of the following:
- CLA faculty members, instructors, staff, and/or graduate students
- Community members and/or community groups/organizations
- University of Minnesota departments and collaborative groups (such as Grand Challenges research groups) that involve faculty or staff from CLA

We are pleased to expand eligibility this year to CLA graduate students, who may now apply without a CLA faculty or staff member named on the application. However, to address considerations unique to graduate student status, **graduate students must consult with Hub staff prior to application.**

We do not currently accept applications from—but encourage applications for projects that involve—undergraduate students or University partners outside CLA.

The Hub's mission is to facilitate and support partnerships between scholars in CLA and the community. Therefore, applicants from the college must partner with community members and/or community organizations for their proposal to be reviewed. Community members and organizations must partner with a CLA faculty/staff member and/or graduate student for their proposal to be reviewed.

If you are a community member or organization and need assistance identifying a CLA partner, or if you are a student or University member outside CLA interested in pursuing a residency, contact Amanda Steepleton, Hub Assistant Director, at stee0260@umn.edu or 612-624-1811. We will do our best to help facilitate a connection to a CLA faculty or staff member or graduate student with shared interests. Beginning this process with ample time before the application deadline will increase the likelihood of a successful connection.

Projects

Projects may be new or ongoing. They may vary in size, scope, and duration but must demonstrate committed efforts and activity over a period of time (i.e., proposals should not be for one-time events). They should be collaborative and facilitate reciprocal engagement between humanistic scholars in CLA and community partners around topics of important public interest. Projects related to migration are encouraged, as they may have the opportunity to receive support through a collaboration with the college's Immigration History Research Center.

The most competitive projects will align with at least one, and potentially more, of the following purposes of public engagement in the humanities (as defined by Humanities for All):
- Inform contemporary debates
- Amplify community voices and histories
- Help individuals and communities navigate difficult experiences
- Expand educational access
- Preserve culture in times of crisis and change

Additional factors that the selection committee consider include the extent to which
- the project demonstrates deep collaboration between CLA and community partners
- the project, the activities it involves, and its intended outcomes are clearly described
- the project and its intended outcomes align with the mission of The Hub and the goals of publicly engaged humanities
- the project centers equity and reciprocity
- use of the Hub space is critical to the success of the project
- the project's space needs would fit logistically with other residencies (e.g., if the project takes place over one month, would others also be able to use the Hub during that month?)
- there are sufficient resources (financial and otherwise) to support a successful project (e.g., resources that could be provided by the applicant, partners, CLA, etc.)
- there is a plan to evaluate the impact of the project

FUNDING

Applicants may request up to a maximum $15,000. You will be asked to provide a proposed project budget, using the provided Google spreadsheet template (submission instructions provided in application). Be as specific as possible. Include funds that you, project partners, or any other entities will provide toward this project. The spreadsheet will ask you to provide accompanying budget justification, which describes and rationalizes each budgeted expense for which you anticipate using Hub funds.

Unless otherwise noted, funds may be used towards any purpose not prohibited by University policy, including general operating expenses. Common expenses for projects include honorariums, supplies, administrative and labor costs, parking validation, event hospitality, facilities fees for after-hours building use, background checks for projects that involve youth, etc.

Equipment purchased with Hub funds is the property of the University of Minnesota but will be designated for your use during your residency.

With few exceptions, compensation to individuals must be paid as a lump sum honorarium (a total agreed upon amount) and not as an hourly rate. If you plan to work with and compensate University students (undergraduate or graduate), please consult with The Hub prior to submitting your application. Hub funds may not be used as compensation for tenure-track and tenured faculty (including faculty release time, course buyouts, or salary in any term).

Please note, if you intend to validate parking during events at The Hub or use The Hub on weekends, you should plan to factor the following into your budget:

Common Administrative Expenses	Amount
After-hours Facilities Fee (weekend use of The Hub)*	$375 per day
Parking Validation	$3 per hour per vehicle, 9 a.m - 3 p.m., M-F $1 per hour per vehicle, all other times -or- $10-20 per vehicle, when event rates are in effect

In instances where custodial services are not required (e.g., a smaller group without a lot of waste or food), this fee may not apply.

The selection committee may prioritize projects where funds directly benefit community partners. We recognize the uneven power that exists between the University and various communities and view budgets that reflect a redistribution of resources as one way to measure reciprocity. In this line, we may also prioritize projects where community partners have little access to other financial resources.

Please apply for what you need for your project to be successful. However, full funding for requests is not guaranteed. If you are granted a residency and request the maximum amount, we may ask if there are aspects of your budget that could be reduced (or funded from other sources) without substantially impacting your project. When possible, requests under $15,000 will allow our funds to go further and support additional residencies.

If the total estimated expenses of your project budget exceed total estimated funds, please provide additional explanation of how you intend to either raise additional funds or reduce expenses, as needed.

EXPECTATIONS OF HUB RESIDENTS

The Hub is not intended to be a traditional grantor but rather a support system and home base for residency projects. Hub staff engage with residency project members in a variety of ways throughout the year, including as liaisons between University and community spaces.

With this relationship in mind, we ask Hub residents to commit to the following:

- **Exercise care for and custodianship of the Hub space**, as defined in our [Hub Use Agreement](#). The Hub is a unique space that requires an investment of time and energy and a sense of responsibility for a public trust by its users.
- **Acknowledge the support of The Hub** in publications or other work that results from the time spent at The Hub or that otherwise grows out of a residency. Hub branded materials will be provided for use.
- **Attend an initial budget meeting** and **submit a brief project summary** (1-3 paragraph) for use in communications about Hub residencies upon acceptance of your residency.
- **Stay in regular communication with Hub staff,** regarding the progress of your project.
- **Document community agreements,** co-created by project partners, to articulate the everyday norms and values that shape how you collaborate. The Hub will provide a template for use.
- **Participate in residency cohort gatherings** three times during the year.
  - Orientation: Friday, September 18, 2026, 12 – 3 p.m.
  - Mid-year Gathering: Friday, December 18, 2026, 12 – 1:30 p.m.
  - End of Year Gathering: Friday, May 7, 2027, 12 – 2 p.m.
- **Briefly introduce your project** during The Hub's open house in late September 2026.
- **Collaborate with a graphic designer** that The Hub will provide (or you may choose to use your own graphic designer, if you have one available to you) to create a poster representing your residency.
- Make time to **meet with a student writer and provide feedback** for an article about your residency that will be published, pending your approval, by the college.
- **Present what you've accomplished** through your project at the conclusion of the residency. This may be an exhibition, performance, report, film, speaking event, website, or any other format that fits your project.
- **Submit a project evaluation** within two months of your residency's conclusion.

We also invite and welcome your participation in Hub events and opportunities for connection with other Hub residents or the University community, as your time and interest allow.

At the end of the residency year, The Hub will provide an opportunity for residency project leaders to serve on next year's [Hub Advisory Committee](#). Advisory Committee members advise on The Hub's ongoing operation and may review future project applications.

APPLYING FOR A HUB RESIDENCY

To apply for a 2026-2027 Hub Residency, **please complete this [application form](#) by end of day on Friday, March 6, 2026.** Below are the questions that appear on the form and the evaluation rubric that the selection committee will use.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS
Below are the questions that appear on the Hub residency application form.

Email Address
Title of Proposal
Name of Applicant
Department/Collaborative Group (if at the University of Minnesota) or Organization (if a community member)

Who
Who are the key partners and participants (individuals, departments, groups, organizations) that will be involved in this project? Please include names, titles, and organizations, as appropriate, and briefly describe their roles in the project.

What
Provide a brief abstract or summary of your project for a general audience (less than 250 words).

Explain your project, the activities it involves, and its intended outcomes. Be sure to explain how this project aligns with the mission of The Hub and why a Hub residency (and the resources it provides) is critical to your project's success.

The most competitive projects will be those that align with at least one, and potentially more, of the following purposes of publicly engaged humanities (as defined by Humanities for All). Please tell us which of these purposes align with your project. Check one or more, as applicable.

- ☐ Inform Contemporary Debates
- ☐ Amplify Community Voices and Histories
- ☐ Help Individuals and Communities Navigate Difficult Experiences
- ☐ Expand Educational Access
- ☐ Preserve Culture in Times of Crisis and Change
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe how your project aligns with one or more of the purposes of public engagement in the humanities that you indicated above.

Please explain how equity and reciprocity in community partnerships will be integrated into your residency. In your explanation, describe the specific elements of your project that will help you achieve these goals.

When

List the approximate time frame in which your project will take place, including a timeline of project activities. To the extent possible, provide dates or information regarding when you would need use of the Hub space. This will help us understand how your project schedule might fit logistically with other residencies. If you will require exclusive use of the Hub space over an extended period of time, please indicate this clearly.

Budget

Please provide a proposed budget for your project, using the provided Google spreadsheet template. Submit your budget as a PDF to Amanda Steepleton, stee0260@umn.edu, and confirm that you have done this in the space below. Email Amanda if you are unable to access the budget spreadsheet, and one will be sent to you.

Include funds that you, project partners, or any other entities will provide toward this project. Note that the request for financial support from The Hub must not exceed $15,000, and fully funded requests are not guaranteed. Be as specific as possible and provide rationale with regard to the expenses for which you anticipate using Hub funds. Please see the funding section in the call for proposals for more information regarding use of Hub funds.

If the total estimated expenses exceed total estimated funds, please provide additional explanation of how you intend to either raise additional funds or reduce expenses, as needed.

Other Resources

In addition to funding, what resources does your project need to be successful (e.g., space, storage, labor, expertise, relationships, etc.)? Please provide a short explanation of resources that you and project partners will provide, as well as resources that have yet to be sourced or that you hope to access through the residency. Note: While not all project activities need to (and often may not) occur in The Hub, use of the Hub space is one important factor the selection committee will consider in evaluating applications. If accessibility needs preclude in-person activity, please speak to this in your response.

If there are particular people, departments, units, etc. in the college or at the University with whom you would be interested in engaging—either to share the work you are doing with a relevant audience or to gain knowledge, perspective, or expertise useful to your project—you are welcome to identify them here. The Hub commits to facilitating these connections to the extent that it is helpful.

Sharing

How do you envision presenting what you've accomplished through your project at the conclusion of the residency? Please check one or more, as applicable.

☐ Exhibition
☐ Performance
☐ Report

☐ Film
☐ Lecture, panel, or speaking event

☐ Website
☐ Other: _____

Project Evaluation

How do you plan to measure the impact of your project quantitatively and/or qualitatively on the college, the University, and the broader community? Please include how your evaluation includes the perspectives of the various participants and partners. (Participants would include individuals who attend events related to or otherwise engage with your residency but who are not involved in the planning of the events or activities. Partners refers to the individuals and/or organizations included in your proposal as collaborators for your residency.) Project evaluations are due within two months of a residency's conclusion.

EVALUATION RUBRIC

Title of Project:				
Name and Role of Applicant:				
	Not at all	Very little	Some-what	Very much
Who				
To what extent does the project demonstrate deep collaboration between CLA and community partners?				
To what extent does the project involve students? (Please note: student involvement is encouraged but not required.)				
What				
To what extent are the project, its activities, and its intended outcomes clearly described?				
To what extent does this project and its intended outcomes align with the mission of the Liberal Arts Engagement Hub and the goals of publicly engaged humanities?				
To what extent does the project center equity and reciprocity?				
When				
To what extent do the project's space needs fit logistically with other residencies (e.g., if the project takes place over one month, would others also be able to use the Hub during that month)?				
Resources				
To what extent is use of the Hub space critical to the success of this project?				
To what extent would Hub funds directly benefit community partners?				

To what extent do community partners have access to other financial resources?				
To what extent do University partners have access to other financial resources?				
To what extent are there sufficient resources to support a successful project (financial and otherwise). This may include resources the applicant and partners may bring to the project or that could be provided by CLA, etc.				
Project Evaluation				
To what extent is there a plan to evaluate the impact of the project?				