

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

Andrew W. Mellon Fund for Faculty Innovation Request for Proposals

Overview

The Andrew W. Mellon Fund for Faculty Innovation at the Princeton University Art Museum encourages innovative curricular initiatives that use the Art Museum's collections in a significant way. The goal of the program is to support interdisciplinary study throughout the University and thoughtful use of the Museum's global collections by fostering collaboration between faculty and the Art Museum. Grants are funded by an endowment from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as part of the Foundation's ongoing commitment to strengthening the role of academic art museums in the teaching and training of undergraduate and graduate students.

Eligibility

All members of the Princeton University faculty are eligible to submit proposals. Applicants should also have their project discussed and ratified in the appropriate venue in the department or program sponsoring the course; a written endorsement from the chair of the sponsoring department must be included in proposals for new courses (proposals for smaller-scale engagements do not require this letter).

Funding and Additional Resources

Financial support for the development of new courses is provided in the form of a one-time summer stipend in the amount of \$10,000. Grants of \$1000 are also available for the development of course modules or assignments as part of new or pre-existing courses. The expectation for faculty who receive funding is that they will spend a substantial portion of the summer conducting in-depth research on the objects they plan to include in their course.

Museum curators are available to consult with faculty on specific portions of the collections and can direct them to additional research resources, including curatorial research files and bibliography.

The Museum has study rooms that can be used for class meetings when objects from storage need to be brought out for discussion and examination by students and faculty. Study rooms can hold a maximum of 14 people and are available during regular office hours (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Class meetings can also take place in the galleries during regular Museum hours (Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours on Thursdays to 10 p.m.). Please note that the Museum galleries are closed to the public on Mondays.

Faculty should consult with the appropriate curator regarding access to the collections and general scheduling consideration prior to submitting their proposal.

Application Instructions

Prior to submitting their proposal, applicants should consult with at least one member of the Art Museum's curatorial staff about the viability of their project. Johanna Seasonwein, Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellow for Academic Programs, is available for guidance and feedback, and can direct interested faculty to the appropriate consulting curator(s) for their project. She may be reached at jseasonw@princeton.edu or at (609) 258-7136. For collections information, please visit our website at artmuseum.princeton.edu.

Proposals for new courses should include:

- A course description (including the name of the consulting curator and the rationale for the course);
- A course syllabus (including examples of objects that will be used);
- An assessment plan taking into consideration what the instructor hopes the students will get out of a course designed around original works of art, and how the instructor will know that these goals have been achieved by the end of the semester; and
- A written endorsement from the chair of the sponsoring department.

Proposals for smaller-scale engagements should include:

- A description of the course (if it is a new or proposed course) or course syllabus (for a pre-existing course);
- A description of the project or engagement that makes use of the Museum's collections (e.g. a series of class visits, a student assignment) and how it will fit into the larger goals of the class.

Selection Criteria

A successful proposal for a new course will include:

- A clear and compelling course rationale;
- Thoughtful consideration of the Museum's collections and their inclusion in a significant manner throughout the course;
- A demonstration of the viability of the course and the depth of the faculty member's commitment to its development and implementation (including its relationship to other work underway); and
- A plan for effective course assessment.

A successful proposal for a smaller-scale engagement will include:

- Thoughtful consideration of the Museum's collections and how they will be integrated into the course;
- A demonstration of the ways in which Museum engagement will enhance the course and/or allow faculty and students to expand upon the course material.

Submission Instructions

Please send all materials to Johanna Seasonwein, Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellow for Academic Programs, at jseasonw@princeton.edu or via campus mail to her attention at the Art Museum. Applications are currently being accepted on a rolling basis.