

## **Call for Presentations: Humanities in the Wild**

**Synopsis:** The Hall Center for the Humanities and the Public Humanities Roundtable at the University of Kansas are partnering with Sunflower Outdoor & Bike Shop (804 Massachusetts Street, Lawrence, KS 66044) to present “Humanities in the Wild,” a monthly evening of humanities presentations, puzzles, games, demos, and more as part of the Final Fridays art walk in downtown Lawrence.

The name “Humanities in the Wild” is intended to resonate with the “wilderness” demographic of Sunflower Outdoor and Bike Shop. It is also intended to signal an expansive, even wild, definition of the humanities.

**Mission:** This program aims to share how humanities scholars are grappling with a wide array of questions related to the great outdoors. From the politics of climate change to the history of conservation, from the American culture of recreation and leisure to canonical narratives of wilderness adventure, the humanities provide insights into how and why our relationship to the outdoors has changed over the years. The humanities also provide resources with which to reflect on the ways our relationships with the outdoors will continue to evolve well into the future.

With this call for presentations, we aim to engage the scholarly community at KU and throughout the region in creating innovative, interactive, and interdisciplinary presentations that take up these issues and appeal to a general audience.

Questions that might prove fruitful in developing a presentation include: How does your humanities discipline unexpectedly relate to the great outdoors? How does the natural world physically, emotionally, socially, and culturally shape the human in different geographies and time periods? What frightens you about the future of our relationship to the wilderness and what excites you? In a thought-provoking and celebratory atmosphere, “Humanities in the Wild” will help audiences make connections between the work humanities faculty are doing across the region and the social and cultural questions the Kansas community is asking about the natural environment.

**Proposal Request:** We are looking for humanities faculty and graduate students from the University of Kansas and throughout the region to propose innovative presentations, exhibits, and activities on the “humanities in the wild” theme that can take place or be featured from 6-8pm on a Final Friday between April and October of 2019 at Sunflower Outdoor & Bike Shop. All proposed projects should relate in some way to the “humanities in the wild” theme. Accepted projects will not receive funding but will receive marketing, logistics, and implementation support from a qualified team of professional staff and graduate student volunteers. Programming may include but is not limited to:

- Brief scholarly presentations designed to engage a general audience in humanities-based conversations, activities, games, etc.—e.g., 5-minute flash presentation that you

would be willing to give several times throughout the evening, 20-minute themed research presentation (with up to 4 participants), or 15-minute Ted-style Talk.

- Humanities-based exhibits, including visual aids, digital displays, objects, sound, and more.
- Performances, including theater, dance, music, and more, that are accompanied by a humanities-based critical scaffolding.
- Film screenings that draw on humanities themes and are accompanied by short discussions of their content through a humanities lens.
- Immersive experiences that encourage audiences to engage with humanities themes—e.g., installations, interactive performance, outdoor tours, etc.
- Immersive “escape room” puzzles that require audiences to work together and use critical thinking skills to solve a humanities mystery.

**To Apply:** Please submit the following documents **no later than March 25th at 11:59PM (Central):**

1. A project proposal including:
  - a. Project Title: A descriptive title of no more than 150 characters, including spaces.
  - b. Project Synopsis: Summarize your project, what makes it innovative, and how it ties into the “humanities in the wild” theme. Please also explain the intended audience (300 words)
  - c. Project Participants: A list of key project participants and their roles in helping to carry out the project. Project participants may include KU scholars, regional scholars, graduate and/or undergraduate students, artists, and/or community non-profit leaders. (No word limit)
  - d. Project Timeline: How will you prepare for this project in the run-up to your assigned Final Friday date? Please provide benchmarks for project development, a detailed outline for the night of the event, and plans for set-up and breakdown. Please list Final Fridays between April and October of 2019 that you are available to present your project. (400 words)
2. A two-page CV for all lead scholars and/or lead project participants
3. A 150-word bio for all lead scholars and/or lead project participants.
4. Any visual aids or work samples you may want to include in order to help the review committee better understand your project. (5 work samples or visual aids max)

All applications should be submitted via email to [sarahbishop@ku.edu](mailto:sarahbishop@ku.edu) as a single PDF **no later than March 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:59PM (Central)**. Visual aids and work samples, including video and sound recordings, may be submitted as hyperlinks in the body of the application email. Please title the subject of the application email: “Humanities in the Wild: Lead Applicant Last Name, Lead Applicant First Name.”

**Evaluation Criteria:** Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Innovative nature of presentation. How original is this presentation format? How likely is it to engage a general audience in creative humanities thought and critical thinking?
- Alignment with “humanities in the wild” theme.
- Quality of Scholarship, as demonstrated by project summary and participating scholars’ CVs.
- Achievability of project timeline and logistics.

**All applicants will be notified of review committee decisions no later than April 8th, and successful applicants will be invited to attend an information/orientation session at the Hall Center tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of April 12 at 3:00pm.**

Questions? Please contact Dave Tell, Professor of Communication Studies, at: [davetell@ku.edu](mailto:davetell@ku.edu), or Sarah Bishop, the Associate Director of the Hall Center for the Humanities, at: [sarahbishop@ku.edu](mailto:sarahbishop@ku.edu) or 785.864.7823.