

Request for Proposals: Haunting Humanities 2019

Synopsis: After a successful first year with more than 600 audience members in attendance, the Hall Center for the Humanities is once again partnering with University of Kansas humanities faculty, regional humanities scholars, and Lawrence non-profits to present an evening of haunted humanities scholarship. This year, Haunting Humanities will take place on October 23rd, 2019 at Abe & Jake's Landing (8 East 6th Street) from 5:30-9:00pm and will be bigger and better than ever!

Mission: With federal and state funding for humanities scholarship increasingly under threat and the value of higher education decreasing in the public eye, we aim to engage our entire community in the diverse perspectives and valuable insights that the humanities can bring to a variety of pressing issues. What are the social questions that keep you awake at night with dread? And how can the humanities combat these fears? What humanities related topics and themes would you like to share in a "haunted house" atmosphere or explore in a spooky environment? In a thought-provoking and celebratory atmosphere, this event helps audiences make connections between the work humanities faculty are doing across the region and the social and cultural questions the Kansas community faces every day.

Proposal Request: We are looking for humanities faculty and graduate students from the University of Kansas and throughout the region to propose innovative presentations on the "haunted humanities" theme that can take place within a three-hour time span on the evening of October 23rd. All proposed projects should relate in some way to the "haunted humanities" theme, and projects that were submitted last year, whether successfully or unsuccessfully, may be submitted again. Accepted projects will receive up to \$500 in support for project supplies, travel costs, and student labor. Programming may include but is not limited to:

- Brief scholarly presentations designed to engage a general audience in humanities-based conversations--e.g., 5-minute flash presentation that you would be willing to give several times throughout the evening or 15-minute Ted-style Talk followed by Q&A.
- 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.
- Games—e.g., Haunting Humanities Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy, Memory, Video Games, Large-scale Board Games, etc.
- Film screenings that draw on humanities themes and are accompanied by short discussions of their content through a humanities lens.
- Immersive, potentially "haunted-house-like" experiences that encourage audiences to engage with humanities themes.
- 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 *New Deadline* May 1st at 11:59PM (Central)**

1. A project proposal including:
 - a. Project Title: A descriptive title of no more than 100 characters, including spaces.
 - b. Project Synopsis: Summarize your project, what makes it innovative, and how it ties into the “haunted humanities” 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 October 23rd? Please provide benchmarks for project development, detailed plans for the night of the event, and plans for set-up and breakdown. (400 words)
 - e. Project Budget: Please list a full budget for your project. Grant funds may cover:
 - i. Graduate/Undergraduate Student Labor compensated at \$10/hour
 - ii. Project Materials
 - iii. TravelNo project will be awarded more than \$500.
2. A two-page CV for all lead scholars and/or lead project participants
3. 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 as a single PDF **no later than *New Deadline* May 1st 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: “Haunting Humanities 2019: 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 “haunted humanities” theme.
- Quality of Scholarship, as demonstrated by project summary and scholars’ CVs.
- Achievability of project timeline and logistics.
- Detail and cost-efficiency of project budget.

All applicants will be notified of review committee decisions no later than May 2nd, and successful applicants will be invited to attend an information/orientation session at the Hall Center on the afternoon of Friday, May 3rd at 3:00-4:00pm. Please contact Sarah Bishop, Associate Director of the Hall Center for the Humanities, with any questions at: sarahbishop@ku.edu or 785.864.7823.