Syracuse University
Humanities Center

The Syracuse University Humanities Center invites proposals for Syracuse Symposium, our annual public events series that invites the community to freely engage with innovative work in the humanities by dynamic scholars, artists, filmmakers, authors, and performers.

In 2024-2025, the series will focus on "COMMUNITY":

- Proposals should connect to the theme and illustrate the humanities' wide relevance.
- Please carefully read this Call for Proposals and our "FAQs" below before you apply.
- Submit your proposal online, by noon on Friday March 1, 2024.

COMMUNITY

"COMMUNITY" entails making, building, and sustaining groups that converge around both disparate and shared goals and interests across time, place, culture, and circumstance. Community involves kinship, with creative, economic, political, environmental, religious, and cultural dimensions, and takes shape in various ways. Community can be: formed around regional or neighborhood boundaries; focused on identity and carving out space for belonging or advocacy; sparked by living memory or historical or cultural artefacts; evoked by sound, food, color, and scent; imagined via storytelling and the arts; tied to political blocs or alliances; or focused on coalition-building and organizing, ideally (but not always), for the common good. Depending on one's social location in a community, it can be a closed, even insular dynamic, a freeing, open environment—or both. In addition to convergence, community also calls to mind dissolution—whether a community dwindles, having lived its course or faced demise, or whether it is forcibly dissolved by violence, disparities, or irreconcilable differences.

- Why and how do some communities thrive? Or disappear?

- What social, philosophical, religious, cultural, or political ebbs and flows can be traced in different ideas about community over time?

- How are we, individually and collectively, responsible for forming and transforming community? To whom, and what, are we accountable?

- What are the horizons by which we imagine community and also understand accountability—including environmental, philosophical, and generational or temporal horizons?

We invite proposals that meaningfully engage the humanities and the many facets of this theme.

Syracuse Symposium Application FAQs

Syracuse Symposium applications are reviewed by committee, with applicants notified of their status in April. If your proposal is accepted, a Commitment Letter will outline important next steps, including key deadlines. Review all below, then contact humcenter@syr.edu with questions.

About the Proposers: The proposal form will ask you to provide names and contact info for each of the collaborators who will execute the proposed event(s).

About the Proposal: You will describe your event, your guest presenter(s), and how your vision supports the theme. Identify connections to humanities research and teaching. Discuss how the event illustrates the humanities' broad relevance. Identify when the event(s) could take place.

Budget Worksheet: The application includes a menu of potential expenses to consider.
- Tabulate each projected expense relevant to your proposal and tally your total budget estimate.
- A separate line will ask you to identify the funding amount requested from the Humanities Center.
  ⇒ Symposium awards range from $2,000-3,000 on up to $6,000 -7,000, depending on the scale and profile of your proposed event and/or invited guest(s).
- Be prepared to solicit other funds to cover expenses: collective support also boosts engagement.
- Accessible format event planning is required: visit the Accessible SU website for resources. All public Syracuse Symposium events must include CART (*live event captioning*) or ASL (*American Sign Language*) as accommodations. Note: Zoom's automatic captions are not ADA compliant.
  ⇒ CART is more inclusive, but ASL can be the right option in certain settings.
  ⇒ For a smaller activity -- where it is possible to communicate with registered participants in advance -- you can arrange accommodations on request, by a published RSVP date.
  ⇒ CART costs vary by duration, format (in-person vs. remote), and how tech-ready a space is. Labor and equipment costs rise if a venue does not have all necessary equipment. An average 2-hour in-person event ranges from $350 (CART-ready room) to $780 (un-equipped room). Remote-format (e.g., on Zoom) CART rates are approximately $115/hour.

Q: Who can apply for Syracuse Symposium funding awards? All units at the University interested in meaningfully engaging with the theme, the humanities, and demonstrating their broad relevance are welcome to apply. Community organizations with strong ties to the humanities and to SU programs, students, and faculty may also apply, providing specific detail about campus collaborations.

Q: Should my desired guest presenter(s) be confirmed before I submit? Ideally, yes. At minimum, early correspondence helps you gauge availability, form an accurate budget, and submit a more persuasive proposal.

Q: When can Symposium events take place? Syracuse Symposium events span Fall and Spring semesters. While some activities must naturally occur on weekends or in evenings, events that complement class times or piggyback with work hours tend to draw better attendance. We aim to avoid overlap with large campus-wide events (Orange Central, Family Weekend), major holidays, national observances, and the Center's pre-existing commitments. Proposals with some scheduling flexibility allow us to fund more potential partners and create balance across the series.