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JEANNETTE K. WATSON DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR IN THE HUMANITIES

Please use this form to propose a **Spring 2026** Watson Professor residency, submitted to [humcenter@syr.edu](mailto:humcenter@syr.edu) **by noon on Friday, November 1, 2024**.

**About the Professorship:** The [*Jeannette K. Watson Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Humanities*](http://humcenter.syr.edu/distinguished-professors.html)was established by the Watson family to support on-campus residencies of prominent humanities scholars, writers, and artists. Previous holders of the professorship include: Krushil Watene, Gabrielle Foreman, Saul Bellow, Susan Schweik, Laura Freixas, Cherríe Moraga, Noam Chomsky, Angela Davis, Hans Mommsen, Toni Morrison, Martha Nussbaum, Mario Vargas Llosa, Leo Steinberg, Stephen Greenblatt, Anthony Grafton, Margaret Atwood, and others.

**Watson Professor Residency Overview and Requirements**

* Public events organized around the Watson Professor’s visit should be designed to attract a diverse audience from across campus and the wider community.
* The successful candidate’s work should meaningfully engage the humanities, broadly conceived.
* Generally, the Watson Professor offers a manageable combination of public lectures, readings, or performances; mini-seminars or workshops; and academic event participation, including class visits and/or small group dialogues, lunches, etc.
* Proposals may originate from individual faculty members or groups of faculty -- from single units or from across a combination of departments/programs/colleges. That individual or group serves as the principal organizer of the residency and functions as the primary point of contact and host for the visiting Watson Professor.
* The residency can take various forms but must be equivalent to a two-week residency (including one weekend) or multiple shorter visits across the semester to the Syracuse campus.
* If your proposal is awarded, you/your team will: organize the residency details, host the Watson Professor, serve as the primary point of contact and collaboration, which includes reaching out to various constituencies to ensure broad participation and impact, and coordinate with the Humanities Center with regard to the overall vision and implementation of programming and publicity.

**Budget:** If approved, the Humanities Center will award up to $55,000 toward the total residency cost.   
***Be sure to complete the enclosed budget planning sheet, with rationales, as part of your proposal.***

**Selection criteria:**

* The scholar/writer/artist must be distinguished and currently active in their field(s).
* The scope of the proposed visit should help foster intellectual community and engagement across the humanities.
* Their work should relate well to other Humanities Center programs and initiatives.
* The planning team should have some experience planning and hosting events.

**Principal Organizer**

Principal organizer’s name:  
 Principal organizer’s home unit/department/college:

Email:

Phone:

**Identify the staff member in the Principal Organizer’s unit who would assist with administrative logistics:**

Name:   
Phone:

Email:

**Is there someone in your unit to help manage the budget and provide fiscal oversight for the residency*, if different from the person identified above*.**

Name:

Phone:

Email:

**List any other primary collaborator(s)-- *copy and paste as needed for any additional organizers***.

Co-Organizer’s name:  
 Co-Organizer’s home unit/department/college:

Email:

Phone:

Co-Organizer’s name:  
 Co-Organizer’s home unit/department/college:

Email:

Phone:

**Proposed model:**

Consecutive 2-week visit

Multiple visits (offering ‘2 weeks’ worth of programming at separate times during semester)

**Proposed dates for the writer/scholar/author’s residency:**

**Possible public events proposed as part of the residency** (*‘X’ any that may apply*):

Public Lecture

Public performance   
 Mini-seminar / workshop

Film / video screening  
 Exhibit

Other (explain):

**Name** of proposed visiting scholar / writer / artist**:**

**Current title / affiliation** (*institute, organization, etc.*)**:**

**Brief biography** (*include links to relevant webpages*):

**Overview:**

(*In 2-3 brief paragraphs, summarize the scope and impact of the distinguished scholar/writer/artist’s body of work and discuss their notable contributions to the humanities.*)

**Rationale for a spring 2026 residency:**

(*In 2-3 brief paragraphs, describe potential foci or core issues the residency might explore, including an overarching tentative theme or title for the proposed residency.)*

**Your prior experience:**

*(In 2-3 sentences, briefly describe other significant public events, symposia, conferences, or collaborations you may have organized / hosted.)*

**Funding request and budget planning**

1. **Funding amount requested from the Humanities Center (up to $55,000):**
2. **Funding amount(s) committed from your (organizers’) home unit(s):**
3. **List all other pledged or potential sponsors from across the University (including external or community partners/funding, if applicable), along with each contributor’s committed or estimated level of support, including “in-kind” support:**
5. **Don’t forget tocomplete and tally the following budget forecast / worksheet!**

*Please provide some context -- here or in the budget worksheet area -- for your proposed expenses.*

**Examples** might include: a rationale about honoraria amount; a brief description of what role or assistance a paid graduate student would cover (if applicable); whether you plan to purchase books or other materials for workshops or giveaways at public events, etc.

**Please complete this budget projection worksheet as part of your proposal:**

Events associated with the Watson Professorship should be planned and budgeted with accessibility in mind. **Consult the latest SU resources for additional guidance on** [**hosting accessible campus events**](https://diversity.syracuse.edu/checklist-for-planning-inclusive-events-at-syracuse-university/?_gl=1*x9msyo*_gcl_au*ODA3OTMwOTUwLjE3MjAwMTc0ODc.*_ga*NDc2NzA0NDA1LjE3MjAwMTc0ODg.*_ga_QT13NN6N9S*MTcyNDI2Njc4OC4zNi4xLjE3MjQyNjY4ODcuMzMuMC4w).

* Providing **CART** (*Communications Access Realtime Translation--live visual captioning)* or **ASL**(*American Sign Language, if more appropriate)* is required for public events—panels, lectures, presentations, performances, etc.
* When hosting a smaller workshop or seminar, accessibility accommodations can be arranged upon request, typically through an RSVP or registration process with a practical deadline (7-10 day notice).

| **Budget considerations** | | **Notes / Guidelines** | **Estimates** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Watson Professor’s honorarium | |  |  |
| Watson Professor’s lodging in Syracuse (*local rates and availability vary*) | |  |  |
| Watson Professor’s travel | |  |  |
| Watson Professor’s ground transport | |  |  |
| Campus Catering | | e.g., light refreshments at events |  |
| Hosted Dining (external) | | e.g., taking guest(s) out for meals |  |
| Meals/Incidentals (per diem allowance) | | Currently $122/day (*see* [*gsa.gov*](http://gsa.gov/) *for rates*) |  |
| **Choose CART or ASL**  **for each event proposed** | **CART Service** (generally more inclusive than ASL) varies by event space--some rooms require more set-up than others. Here are sample costs for a 2-hour talk:   * **CART transcriber = approx. $135 per hour** * **TECH SUPPORT by SU’s LEMP staff** or **outside vendor** for CART connections at an in-person event = **up to $60 an hour** * There may be **additional equipment costs ($150-250)** for non-CART-ready spaces.   **TIP: budget for the higher end.** If you are awarded Watson funding, we will consult current resources to more accurately project CART costs for your event(s). | |  |
| **ASL** **interpreter**(s), if suitable for the activity | **2 hour event averages $400**  (*2 interpreters are usually required*) |  |
| **Space fees** for campus venues (if relevant—e.g., Hendricks, Herg, etc.) | |  |  |
| **Advertising** (*online, radio, print*) beyond what the HC provides, if applicable | |  |  |
| **Print production** (*posters, fliers, invites*) beyond what HC provides, if applicable | |  |  |
| **Additional guests’ expenses** (e.g., honoraria and/or lodging for panelists, performers, etc.) | |  |  |
| **Extra help** (e.g., optional grad student assistance for *x* hrs./week at $x/hr. over one semester to help execute) | |  |  |
| **Other** (explain): | |  |  |
| **Other** (explain): | |  |  |
| **Please add up your estimates here … TOTAL 🡪** | | |  |

**Support provided by the Humanities Center:**

The Center will generally: reserve and pay for CART\* or ASL\*\* services on your behalf, generate publicity, and offer other event-planning guidance. In addition, and based on need, the Humanities Center can provide some support in securing event spaces or processing invoices or honoraria. Such details will be determined after funding has been awarded. In all cases, the Center will work closely with the budget / administrative staff in your unit.

The Center also traditionally hosts and covers the costs for an opening or closing reception within the residency, which need not be part of your own budget planning.

*\* Communications Access Realtime Translation (live visual captioning)*

*\*\* American Sign Language*

**Support provided by you:**

As the residency’s principal organizer/organizing team, you are responsible for developing and managing the overall budget, which includes raising additional funds from co-sponsors to cover any costs beyond the $55,000 in support offered by the Humanities Center.

The principal organizer/organizing team also generally: secures event spaces; oversees technical requirements for the various activities; coordinates with the Watson Professor about travel to Syracuse; determines honoraria amounts and arranges for honorarium payments and any reimbursements; and assumes general hosting duties during the guest’s residency.

Your chair / program director and/or other applicable leadership within your unit should be aware of, and willing to support, your pursuit of this project. Departmental approval may be required before accepting any awarded funds.

**Upon commitment:**

An initial planning meeting between the principal organizer(s) and Humanities Center staff will outline necessary duties and responsible parties. An initial budget review and program schedule brainstorming will also be part of our early planning steps. Later planning stages will require confirming details and descriptions for all the public events of the Watson Professor residency to meet the Center’s publicity design and printing deadlines. The Humanities Center also requests post-event feedback on attendance, outcomes, testimonials, etc.

**Thank you for your submission! Following internal review, we will be in touch with any questions, decisions, and / or next steps.**