

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 2025-2026, the series will focus on “CREATIVITY”:

- 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 7, 2025.

## CREATIVITY

“CREATIVITY” as a concept offers a call to action—it centers performance, engagement, storytelling, and the art of “doing.” Creativity foregrounds generative energies, the craft of invention, and our capacity to imagine and to dream. Some would argue that to create is to be uniquely human ... creativity taps into a drive to bring something new into existence, calls us forth to have an impact on and to shape the world around us.

Creativity can take many forms, including political, artistic, spiritual, philosophical, and embodied realms. It is capacious--with analytical, critical, and visionary dimensions: creativity, then, is as central to artistic innovation as it is to strategic problem-solving. Creative expression is also key to our capacity to change, and to grow and learn across the lifespan. Many find solace and comfort in the creative realm, in times of loss, sorrow, or difficulty. At the same time, creativity can spark joy and a sense of intellectual, artistic, and bodily freedom. Creative forces are, thus, essential for building community, contesting constraint and imagining new worlds or possibilities, and fostering wellness and well-being.

We invite proposals that meaningfully engage the humanities and the many facets of this theme. **Please read on for helpful FAQs** to help you craft a compelling, competitive proposal!

## 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](mailto: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. Indicate when the proposed 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 can range from \$2,000-3,000 on up to \$5,000-6,000, depending on the scale and profile of your proposed event and/or invited guest(s).
- Be prepared to solicit additional 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?

**A:** 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 SU programs, students, and faculty may also apply, providing specific detail about their campus collaborations.

**Q: Should my desired guest presenter(s) be confirmed before I submit?**

**A:** 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?**

**A:** 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 (e.g., Orange Central, Family Weekend), major holidays and religious observances, seasonal breaks, and the Center's pre-existing commitments. Proposals that have some scheduling flexibility allow us to fund more potential partners and create balance across the series.