

The [Syracuse University Humanities Center](#) invites proposals for [Syracuse Symposium](#), our annual public events series that engages wider publics with innovative work in the humanities by renowned scholars, artists, filmmakers, authors, and performers.

In 2022-2023, the series will focus on “REPAIR”:

- Proposals should connect to the theme and illustrate the humanities’ wide relevance.
- Submit applications, via our online [form](#), **by noon on Friday March 4, 2022.**
- Considering the pandemic’s ongoing uncertainties, we continue to encourage submissions that propose remote-format options/activities as part of the mix of offerings, to maximize access and inclusivity.
- Questions? Reference the “FAQs” following the CFP below.

REPAIR

Syracuse Symposium invites you to propose events/activities that meaningfully engage the many facets of our 2022-23 theme, REPAIR ...

REPAIR is relevant to individual or interpersonal questions as well as collective and structural efforts. REPAIR represents healing, mending, fixing ... to stitch or fasten, bring together (re-pair), restore, or reinstate. It also can mean to head toward or adjourn to—suggesting a journey as well as a space/place to gather. Of course, REPAIR has numerous historical, political, legal, linguistic, and institutional implications as well, as in questions of redress, restitution, and reparations.

REPAIR also has several tensions which we invite you to consider in your proposals...

- For instance, the impetus to repair can draw energies away from starting something new, crafting a different approach, or engaging in transformative efforts. Yet, the idea that transformation or new directions are necessarily best or most just can potentially undermine the loving labors of conservation—work often done in the context of restoration as a form of resistance and social justice, particularly when it comes to hidden histories and marginalized communities/ways of knowing.
- In addition, questions of labor and disparity emerge in the contexts of REPAIR—*who does (or is expected to do) repair work? Who mends, picks up the pieces, refashions something out of fragments or remnants—and for whom?*
- Finally, REPAIR begs the question, *who/what is seen as in need of ‘repair’ or as broken?* As much as repair can signal healing (in a positive sense), it can also be coercive, reinforcing certain norms of “being well.” *What normative/curative, impulses are in play in different iterations and applications of “repair?” What are the limits of repair?* Should energies focus on addressing (repairing) an archive’s erasures or violations, or would establishing counter-narratives be more appropriate?

Application FAQs

Syracuse Symposium applications are reviewed by committee. Applicants will be notified of their status by early 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: Provide names and contact info for each of the collaborators who will execute the proposed event(s).

About the Proposal: Describe your event, your guest scholar/artist/performer/author/etc., 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. *Due to COVID's persistence, we encourage you to consider some remote-format options/activities in the mix as part of your proposal.*

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.
- On a separate line, identify the funding amount requested from the Humanities Center.
 - ⇒ Symposium awards may 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 generally more inclusive, but ASL can be the right option in certain settings.
 - ⇒ For a smaller activity -- where it's possible to communicate with registered participants in advance -- you can arrange accommodations on request.
 - ⇒ CART costs vary by duration, format (in-person vs. remote), and how tech-ready a space is. Labor/equipment costs rise if a venue doesn't have all necessary equipment. For in-person activities, on average, the cost of a 2-hour event ranges from \$350 (CART-ready room) to \$780 (un-equipped room). Remote-format (e.g., on Zoom) costs \$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 University programs, students, and faculty may also apply, providing specifics about campus collaborations.

Q: Should my desired guest speaker(s) be confirmed before I submit? Ideally, yes. At a minimum, conversations should be underway to have an accurate budget and to submit a 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 classes or occur at the end of a workday tend to have better attendance. We aim to avoid overlap with large campus-wide events (Orange Central, Family Weekend), major holidays, and pre-existing programs in the humanities. Proposals with some scheduling flexibility allow us to fund more potential partners and create balance across the series.