

Mellon-*Fronteridades* Creative Scholars

The Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry (CCI) is pleased to accept applications for **Cohort 1** of the Mellon-*Fronteridades* Creative Scholars program, made possible through a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This program is open to students, postdoctoral scholars, professionals, artists, and local community members intending to enrich the US-Mexico borderlands through an arts, social justice, and/or research project.

The Mellon-*Fronteridades* Creative Scholars program seeks to expand interdisciplinary scholarship, service, and engagement with Arizona-Sonora border communities through the lens of the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences. This program supports the overarching goal of *Fronteridades* to address the gap in knowledge between the lived experience of the border and how the border is perceived by those without such personal experience. The Creative Scholars program offers a unique opportunity to amplify new voices in the border narrative and enrich public understanding of border life, through funding projects and research that engage arts and humanities-based interdisciplinary initiatives which work with Arizona-Sonora border communities.

Cohort 1 (application due Nov 29th) will consist of three creative scholars based in the **arts and community engagement**, completing a community-based project between January-July 2020 (with optional 3-month extension). **Cohort 2** (request for proposals TBA Spring 2020) will consist of three scholars completing a **scholarly project** from August 2020 through April 2021.

COHORT 1 - TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Proposed projects must fit under at least one of the following categories:

- **Arts:** A public arts (visual, performing, documentary, musical, or social practice) project with a culminating event (e.g., performance, gathering, festival, radio show, publication etc.) that benefits at least one border community. Collaborations with existing local arts initiatives are encouraged.
- **Community:** A community social justice project that benefits at least one border community. Collaborations with existing local social justice initiatives are encouraged.

This program aims to encourage collaboration with local border-related initiatives, connecting the creative scholar's interest and background with identified goals and needs of current borderland initiatives, such as art projects, non-profit organizations, and University of Arizona initiatives.

Proposed projects should culminate in at least one discernible outcome that benefits an Arizona-Sonora border community and promotes a unique public narrative of border life. Examples could include the facilitation of an arts training workshop for underrepresented youth that culminates in a community-led mural; a partnership with a local chronologist that culminates in an illustrated publication and/or a ceremony where copies are distributed to local residents; or a community-led photojournalism project that culminates in the presentation of an open-access, digital archive of photos accompanied by educational materials.

Each selected awardee will receive \$18,600 compensation for the project period, up to \$7,000 for approved project-related expenses, up to \$3,500 for approved project-related travel, and will be eligible to receive an additional \$1,000 compensation at the end of the term upon successful completion of the program and receipt of a final report. **Depending on scope of proposed projects, additional funds may be available for reimbursement of project related expenses.* Creative scholars will be expected to participate in other Confluencer center border-related activities throughout their appointment, potentially including curriculum development for the UA Border Lab initiative, and/or presentations at UA events.

In addition, Confluencer center equipment (e.g., camera, portable projector, laptop) will be available for project-related use, and office space may be provided on an as-needed basis, during the project period.

Cohort 1 applications must be uploaded to the [CCI submissions portal](#) with all required materials by Friday, November 29th, 2019 at 12 midnight MST. Only complete applications will be considered. Applications submitted outside of the online portal will not be reviewed. Qualified candidates must be eligible to work in the United States.

REQUIRED MATERIALS FOR APPLICATION INCLUDE:

1. Cover letter (suggested length: 3 pages, 12 pt font, double spaced) describing:* a) The proposed project and its objectives, b) The community and community issue/need(s) the proposed project addresses, c) The artistic and community-based methods applicant plans to use to carry out the proposed project, d) How this project builds on previous experience as an artist or community worker, e) Other personnel, partnering organizations or groups that will be involved in the project, f) Project plan including budget and timeline for completion.
2. Statement of community ethics. What is your approach and philosophy to working in community? (suggested length: 1-2 pages, 12 pt font, double-spaced)
3. Resume
4. Three letters of recommendation (Must include letters from project partner organizations/groups, if applicable)
5. A sample of past work

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION PROCESS

Applications for the Mellon-Fronteridades Creative Scholars program will be evaluated by a selection committee composed of UA faculty and CCI staff. The committee will assess applications with reference to the following criteria:

- Clarity of vision and prospects for completion within the timeframe of the program
- Prior experience, background, and/or capability of carrying out proposed activities
- Quality of application
- Level of creativity, novelty, or innovation of inquiry, methodology, or projected outcome

The selection committee will also give preference to candidates who-

- Are active in border-focused research, art, and/or community engagement projects
- Propose projects benefitting the Ambos Nogales and/or Douglas-Agua Prieta communities
- Are from diverse backgrounds/minoritized groups
- Have lived experience in the borderlands

- Identify at least one community partner or collaborator, with letters of recommendation from identified partner(s)

Candidates will be notified by email of their award status by December 19th, 2019.

Neither CCI nor the selection committee discriminates on the basis of age, gender, race, ethnicity, physical disability, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, citizenship or immigration status, or political affiliation.

Please contact Leona Davis with any questions at leonafdavis@email.arizona.edu or 520-621-0599.

ABOUT THE CONFLUENCENTER FOR CREATIVE INQUIRY AND *FRONTERIDADES*

CCI at the University of Arizona is a campus-wide research institute that unites three large and robust areas – arts, humanities, and social sciences – as a point of intersection for inquiry across all disciplines. The Confluentcenter’s mission is to provide a physical and intellectual home for interdisciplinary inquiry that focuses on the grand challenges of today. The center convenes faculty and students from across disciplines, develops collaborative research projects, funds proposals and shares knowledge in engaging ways with the broader community.

CCI is a member of the Consortium of Humanities Center & Institutes and has held a seat in its international board since 2014.

Fronteridades, a project made possible by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, seeks to promote and define an intersectional space where borders (*fronteras*) and humanities (*humanidades*) collide, coexist, and give rise to *Fronteridades* [*fronteras + humanidades*]. This work is possible through close collaboration with multiple partners, including Southwest Folklife Alliance, Colibrí Center for Human Rights, and IMFOLCUTA in Nogales, Sonora. As part of this partnership, border residents, migrants, and their families are recording and sharing their stories to promote a more nuanced, multidimensional understanding of life on the border. Additionally, this project provides funding for creative scholars, and microgrants for border artists. This project will culminate in an international *intercambio* conference in Spring 2021.