Confluencenter for Creative Inquiry invites proposals for PandemiDiarios, a microgrant program to support students, academic professionals, and community-based artists and practitioners in producing creative works reflecting on the human experience of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The term pandemidiarios comes from blending “pandemic” and “diarios” (diaries). Diarios are where the stories of ourselves are written. They are where we express our frustrations, hopes, and visions for the future. For some it is a therapeutic process, and for others a way to capture the moment or keep a record of day to day life.

The concept of PandemiDiarios emerges as a response to these day to day human moments, experiences, reflections, and creative responses during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for those who have been disproportionately affected. Racial and ethnic minorities; the elderly; health, service, and other essential workers; along with socioeconomically disadvantaged members of our community facing the worst of this crisis. PandemiDiarios is thus an attempt to center these experiences from the perspective of those who live them.

Eligibility:
Students, academic professionals, and community-based artists and practitioners are all welcome to apply, including those affiliated* or non-affiliated with University of Arizona. Qualified candidates must be eligible to work in the United States.

*Awards made to University of Arizona students will be applied to any outstanding Bursar’s account balance, if applicable.

2020 Program timeline:
May 11- Call for application opens
May 22- Applications due (5:00PM)
May 29- Awardees notified
Mid-June- Awards disbursed
July 31- Final projects due

Grant terms:
Awardees will receive a $400 microgrant to complete their proposed project. Up to twelve microgrants will be awarded in total. Original creative projects must represent reflection and interpretation of recipients’ experience in their current circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and/or imagining adaptations for the future. Projects may include, but are not limited to:
a poem
a song
a short story
a dance
photography
fashion design
a short film or video series
a sculpture
a drawing
a painting
a set of observations of the natural world
other artistic or humanistic form

The projects must be carried out individually or with household members, adhering to the guidance of both the University of Arizona and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Final projects must be produced/recorded/photographed digitally by the grantee, to be showcased online in a virtual exhibition hosted by Confluencenter for Creative Inquiry. The PandemiDiarios exhibit will remain on the Confluencenter website through the end of 2020.

Successful completion of the project includes: 1) Submission of the final project in a digital form, and 2) A brief (one-page) statement describing the work and its interpretation.

How to apply:
Applications must be submitted through the online submission portal with all required materials by 5:00pm on Friday, May 22, 2020. Only complete applications will be considered. Applications submitted outside of the online portal will not be reviewed. Questions about applying should be directed at the Programs Coordinator, Leona Davis, at leonafdavis@arizona.edu.

Selection process:
Applications will be evaluated by Confluencenter staff on the following criteria:

- Proposed project would bring a unique or underrepresented perspective on the COVID-19 crisis and relevant human experiences
- Proposed project employs unique methodology/media
- Applicant demonstrates personal capability to complete proposed project
- Proposed project seems feasible within the 2 month timeframe and with social distancing constraints

Confluencenter does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, ethnicity, physical disability, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, citizenship or immigration status, or political affiliation.

ABOUT THE CONFLUENCENTER FOR CREATIVE INQUIRY
Confluencenter 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 Confluencenter’s mission is to provide a physical and intellectual home for interdisciplinary inquiry that focuses on the grand challenges of society 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. Confluencenter is a member of the Consortium of Humanities Centers & Institutes (CHCI) and has held a seat in its international board since 2014.