

From: Julie Fry
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 11:33 PM
To: Constance Carroll
Subject: Mellon journalism project

Hi Constance,

It was good to talk with you briefly today, and I thank you for making the time and for your interest in being a partner. As I mentioned, we are applying to Mellon as part of the FSHC cohort for the Democracy and the Informed Citizen initiative. These are the goals of the initiative that Mellon has articulated:

The Democracy and the Informed Citizen initiative will pursue three main goals:

- 1) Deepen the public's knowledge and appreciation of the intimate connections between democracy, the humanities, journalism, and an informed citizenry, including the following:
 - A healthy democracy requires an informed citizenry.
 - The humanities and journalism play a vital role in fostering an informed citizenry.
 - Informed citizens are media literate.
- ✓ 2) Increase media literacy by engaging the public in discussions with Pulitzer Prize winners and finalists in journalism, other respected journalists, and scholars about reliable and unreliable sources of information.
- 3) Explore obstacles to sustaining high-quality journalism, especially local journalism, and potential solutions.

This is a very brief summary of our approach:

In this era of deep political divide, pervasive social media and the undermining of reliable journalism as "fake news", how will young Californians come to understand and make reasoned and informed decisions about issues that will directly affect their futures? In 2018 California Humanities will implement a series of public conversations and participatory events with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists that are designed to engage a broad and representative cross-section of young Californians (age 18-24) in a consideration of the issues that divide and unite us, as well as the futures that they envision for themselves and their communities.

We envision, as I mentioned, partnering with four community colleges - in Redding, Bakersfield, Silicon Valley, and San Diego - to deliver both student-focused and public activities focused on journalism. As an aside, we had a board meeting last week and I put together a panel on journalism (moderated by Joaquin Alvarado, former CH board member) and it was dynamite; they are willing to take the show on the road, so that may

be part of this. In general, as we develop this year-long initiative, we are thinking that we would offer funds to our community college partners to work with the students in a way that is relevant to each site, and we would produce the public/community event. One idea could be that the community college hosts a day-long journalism symposium, led by students, with a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist that we provide as a component. We could then hold a larger community discussion about journalism, including the Pulitzer winner that participated in the symposium.

Questions:

- How much money would make this worthwhile to a community college? Our Mellon grant will be modest. Is \$5K appropriate?
- Is there a longer-term way this might work, rather than a one-off event?
- Would it be possible for the colleges to provide a venue, for example, for the public event?
- Include upper high school students? Other youth-focused organizations like Youth Radio, Boys and Girls Club, etc?
- What time of year would be optimal? Spread across the school year (so each college does it at a different time), or all in the same week, say in Fall 2018?

Thank you, Constance, for your guidance.

Warm regards,
Julie



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