



The Corridor is supported by endowment awards from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to Syracuse University, Cornell University, and the University of Rochester.

This report discusses Central New York Humanities Corridor activities and administration from January 1 through June 30, 2019 -- a briefer period than is typical, as it coincides with the first semester of Corridor activity on the three-endowment operating structure. Based on a review of all Spring 2019 working group activities, end-of-year summaries, and other documentation, this report includes:

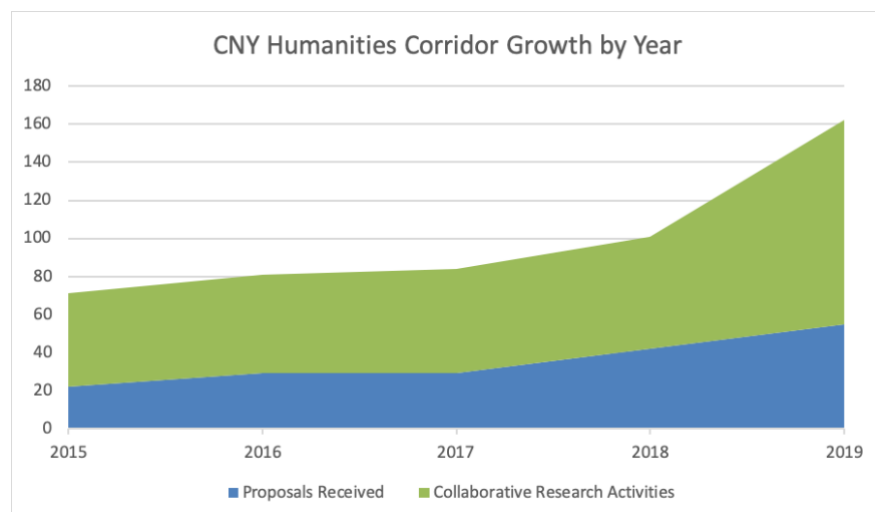
1. Introduction;
2. Responses to and outcomes from the Spring 2019 Advisory Board meeting;
3. Recap of budgetary and administrative policies;
4. Spring 2019 endowment budgets;
5. No-Cost Extension request on remaining grant funds;
6. Report of Spring 2019 working groups and awards;
7. Breakdown of other programs in 2019 and beyond;
8. Governance, administration, and leadership transition; and
9. Advisory Board meeting topics for further discussion.

Introduction

The Corridor has seen marked increase in activity and engagement. In just over four years, the number of proposals submitted and the number of collaborative research activities have more than doubled. In Fall 2019 alone, the Corridor is hosting 54 activities across 7 of the 11 campuses.

CNY Humanities Corridor Growth by Year

Year	Proposals Submitted	Collaborative Research Activities
2015	22	49
2016	29	52
2017	29	55
2018	42	59
2019	55	106



This growth is positive, and we anticipate continued robust engagement and activity. Raising awareness about Corridor activities is important, as is finding ways to highlight opportunities for engagement (e.g., identifying and providing advance information about public events/activities). Creating clear pathways for new scholars to join the network, either by joining existing working groups or by forming their own, also remains a key focus: to this end, for example, there may be room for expansion in the Corridor's cluster categories, to account for changing humanities research landscapes.

In addition to opportunities, growth and expansion can present some challenges. For instance, the Corridor has a very successful reporting rate (99% return), once events/activities have taken place, but devising corridor-wide publicity and raising awareness about opportunities (both within the Corridor networks and to wider publics, as relevant) *before* they occur remains somewhat complex. In addition, if growth continues at the current rate, proposals may not be fully funded, some may need to be declined for revision/re-submission in the next cycle, etc. Fiscally, the Corridor is multifaceted: we must work within projected earnings across three endowments, balance spending/awards across the endowments where possible, account for multi-year awards in our forecasting, and ensure we support successful existing projects; yet, we also need to create space for new groups of scholars/areas of inquiry to participate and flourish. Conveying to users some key requirements of the Corridor's multi-institutional structure, or implications of its three-pronged fiscal planning, in ways that are clear and accessible, has its challenges. Furthermore, though some innovative new opportunities that have been implemented thanks to suggestions by Board members and Working Group coordinators (multi-year awards, signature event funding, etc.) are both popular and allow for different kinds of projects and work, the fiscal implications over time of these newer approaches will need tracking and careful examination, to ensure a balanced spread of opportunities and funding remain open to all across the Corridor.

Responses to and Outcomes from the Spring 2019 Corridor Advisory Board (CAB) meeting

On March 4, 2019, the CNY Humanities Corridor Advisory Board gathered for its second meeting at the University of Rochester: the minutes from the Spring meeting were shared with current Advisory Board members in advance of the Fall 2019 meeting. Recommendations from that meeting are listed below, followed by responses to/outcomes of those recommendations.

1. *Shifting the Annual Advisory Board Meeting Schedule*

The Board discussed and approved changing from an annual spring meeting to fall meetings instead, hence the two advisory board meetings in 2019. The next (4th) meeting will be held at Syracuse University in Fall 2020. The prompt for this change was that all three endowment institutions now share the same Mellon Foundation annual reporting deadline of September 30. In addition, the Corridor now operates on a fiscal year schedule. An Advisory Board meeting early in the Fall better aligns with these Corridor-wide shifts in administrative processes.

2. *Advisory Board Membership Term Limits*

Engaged participation in the Advisory Board is important to the Corridor's vibrancy, continued growth, and ongoing success. With Board members' key roles in mind, we need to identify replacements for outgoing members who are active Corridor participants, ideally not currently serving in administrative roles that may impact or impede their ability to fully participate. CAB representatives typically serve a three-year term, but for the inaugural board, some representatives have only served two-year terms in order to stagger Board member expiry dates.

3. *Special Collections Fellowship Suggestion*

There was a lengthy discussion of potentially reviving a Corridor-wide special collections fellowship that had existed in Phase II of the Corridor. However, the previous model is not workable within the new Corridor endowment structure. Further research was recommended as to how such a program might operate and what other university programs exist for best practices and models. If fiscally and structurally viable, these ideas will be shared in a future CAB meeting.

4. *Special Programs on the Three Endowments*

Embedded in the three endowments are three unique programs (one special program at each endowment campus). Syracuse University has the *Distinguished Visiting Collaborator*, Cornell University has discretionary funds they have developed into the *Cornell Conference Initiative*, and the University of Rochester has the *Digital Humanities Initiative*. Any new special programs outside the working group format that might be generated and approved by all of the three Directors could seek input from the Advisory Board and would need to be reviewed and approved by the Mellon Foundation, as they would need designated budget lines and protocols.

5. *Defining Signature Events*

The Signature Event category for working groups requires “meaningful involvement” from at least three Corridor campuses. “Meaningful” involvement could also mean “substantive” engagement on the part of other campus coordinators (e.g., giving an introduction for a speaker or moderating a panel discussion). Simply inviting such engagement, but not seeing it through, and wondering why participation from other institutions didn’t happen, cannot suffice. Groups who do not follow through on meaningful involvement criteria will jeopardize their funding potential in future award cycles.

6. *Clarifying the Corridor’s Purpose*

The Corridor facilitates resource-sharing mechanisms and fosters cross-institutional scholarly collaborations and partnerships across the region. Our programs increase connectivity among scholars (faculty, staff, and students) working in the humanities, broadly conceived, in emerging and established areas of inquiry.

- There are some working groups with collaborators from only two institutions in the same locale/city (e.g. Syracuse University and Le Moyne College, or the University of Rochester and the Rochester Institute of Technology).
- However, the spirit of the Corridor is to foster collaborations across the region, beyond one immediate locale, and the intention is that groups collaborate meaningfully rather than simply to fulfill a requirement.
- The Advisory Board recognizes some groups may need to start small to build their network. At the same time, adhering to the spirit and intent of the Corridor as a regional network and collaborative community is essential.
- Thus, in award letters following the May 2019 Call for Proposals, all working groups operating only within one city were notified of their need to expand to add meaningful involvement of a working group coordinator from another institution beyond their immediate locale/city. Future proposals from those working groups will not be approved unless they demonstrate regional expansion.

7. *Working Group Reporting & Corridor Survey*

- In the Spring 2019 Working Group Reports, the final question provided an opportunity for open-ended comments from working group coordinators. The question read, “The CNY Humanities Corridor is a multi-institutional collaborative program operating from

three endowments within a myriad of differing financial structures and protocols. If you have any feedback you would like to share with Corridor administration or the Advisory Board, please do so here.” Not many groups opted to respond, but the following verbatim comments were shared:

- Given the schedule of most faculty and the way in which scholarly gatherings come together, requiring a 6-week advance form is difficult to manage. Please consider adjusting this deadline.
 - It would be great if there was more flexibility for multi-year funded groups to move the location of a planned event from one corridor institution to another, and also to move unused funds to a future event. Thank you for considering this suggestion.
 - This is a wonderful resource that has provided scholars in our emerging field with opportunities for productive collaborations and conversations. Thank you!
 - We deeply appreciate your support, professionalism, and attention to detail.
 - We have been very grateful for the Corridor's support, which has prompted and fostered what is turning into a very fruitful collaborative working group. The administrators have been prompt and helpful.
 - Thank you for your support in fostering the arts in our local communities.
- Following the 2019-20 academic year, the Corridor will begin sending out an annual survey that will replace the annual working group report. This survey is to be sent out to the entire Corridor listserv (rather than to just the active working group coordinators in any given term/year) and will ask for updates on outcomes from current or former working groups. Further elaboration of this CAB discussion topic can be found in the last section of this report.

8. *Call for Proposals (CFP) Recommendations*

- The basic working group funding patterns are to remain the same: \$1500 for new working groups, \$2500 per event limit for continuing working groups, and a limit of \$5000 for any working group in a year. (New groups would technically be eligible for a total of \$4000 in one year if they submitted proposals to establish themselves in one term for up to \$1500 and then to continue in the next CFP period with activities up to \$2500.)
- Co-sponsorships are encouraged to increase engagement and participation from other units, as the Corridor is not intended to be the sole funding source for any given group or activity.
- The CFP deadline for fall will remain October 15th, annually, and for Spring CFP cycles, we will change to an earlier annual deadline of March 15th. In the future, these deadlines may be subject to change should there be a need to realign administrative workflows.

Recap of Budgetary and Administrative Policies

Target allotments

Target allotments were established in 2014 in proportion to the initial anticipated payouts of CNY Humanities Corridor endowments at each of the three primary partner institutions, with Syracuse University's endowment supporting activities at the schools of the New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium (NY6). In the pre-endowment period, there were target allotments of \$100,000 available each year for working group funding, proportioned as follows:

- \$60,000 for activities at Syracuse University/NY6;
- \$25,000 for activities at Cornell University; and
- \$15,000 for activities at the University of Rochester.

In the endowment phase, given the level of growth and activity across the Corridor, these target ratios will be monitored over time and may need to be revised. Additionally, as of July 1, 2019, Le Moyne College has joined the Corridor as an official participating institution. As part of this cost-sharing agreement, Le Moyne College will annually contribute \$5,000 toward Corridor activities at Le Moyne and an additional \$5,000 reserved for a Travel Fund for their own faculty to be reimbursed for travel expenses to/from Corridor activities in other cities. The Syracuse University endowment would contribute up to an additional \$5,000 toward activities at Le Moyne for a total of \$10,000 in Le Moyne activities each year. We anticipate a similar cost-sharing arrangement with the Rochester Institute of Technology and the University of Rochester's endowment, but final details are still pending, as of this reporting. As Corridor awareness increases, we expect growth in the number of proposals in the near-term. The multi-year proposal option for continuing working groups may create fluctuations in the number of proposals received from year to year. Each institution's endowment fiscal management policies also will impact available working group funding annually (e.g., differing balance carryover and reinvestment policies).

Use of funds on awarded campuses/locations: Priority in funding continues to be given to working groups demonstrating active participation of faculty, staff, and students from multiple Corridor institutions. Generally, no funds carry over for working group activities not completed per the terms of the funding award letter (i.e., by term, host campus, total budget). Approved activities also cannot be relocated to a different semester or Corridor location without prior approval as this may adversely affect institutional endowment spending. In the endowment phase, there is a new process for groups to request an award amendment: depending on the type of request, the Directors may need to revisit the proposal and consider how any changes impact endowment projections and available funds.

General award/funding principles: To support working groups across the region, and to maximize the impact of available funds, for pre-endowment, No-Cost Extension (NCE), and endowment period working group budgets, we use the following guidelines:

- New working groups are eligible for up to \$1,500 in planning funds to establish their research network and organize one to two small-scale events;
- The recommended single-event budget maximum is \$2,500; and
- The recommended maximum annual working group commitment is \$5,000 (for continuing groups with two or more activities taking place at more than one Corridor location).
- We encourage groups to seek college and departmental co-sponsorships since support from multiple sources increases engagement and publicity, especially for public events.
- Although the Corridor continues to provide funding to larger-scale programming (i.e., multi-day conferences and colloquia, public talks, screenings, and performances), we encourage working groups to engage in a range of activities including reading/writing groups, teaching exchanges, symposia, and mini-seminars and workshops, as part of the Corridor's scholarly network.

Signature events: a new Signature Event proposal category was created in 2018. This category is reserved for high-profile events that may require a larger amount of funding (e.g., conferences, colloquia, large-scale exhibitions and/or performances involving Corridor participants). Proposed activities must include substantive participation or engagement from at least three Corridor campuses. Groups who do not follow through on meaningful involvement

criteria will jeopardize their funding potential in future award cycles. Funding levels vary from year-to-year based on proposal submissions and available funding. These proposals are capped at requests of up to \$10,000 and are considered separately from the general award categories listed above.

Spring 2019 Endowment Budgets

Now that the CNY Humanities Corridor is operating on a three-institutional endowment structure, financial reports must be provided individually from each of the three primary institutions. The Syracuse University budget and financial report will cover the Spring 2019 academic semester (December 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019), covering the partial-year period following the Mellon Foundation's 2018 report cutoff date. Cornell University and the University of Rochester will submit their own endowment financial reports covering the academic year of 2018-19 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019). This difference in reporting periods is due to the new endowment structure and Syracuse University's request to align with our other Corridor institutions for a universal Fall annual reporting deadline.

Funding for the CNY Humanities Corridor's endowment period (January 1, 2019 and beyond) is based on a collaboration between the three primary Corridor institutions and their respective endowments. Syracuse University started with a \$4 million endowment, Cornell University with \$1.5 million, and the University of Rochester with \$1 million. Each institution now has its own annual Corridor operating budget based on each institution's investment earnings. Syracuse University, as the administrative home of the Corridor, will continue to provide overall reporting on the activities of the Corridor and its working groups, but each institution is responsible for managing and reporting on its own endowment, earnings, and annual budgets in support of the collaborative research goals of the CNY Humanities Corridor.

No-Cost Extension Request on Remaining Grant Funding

The transition to the three-endowment structure began officially on January 1, 2019: thus, Spring 2019 Corridor activities have drawn entirely from the three institutional endowments. However, on June 6, 2019, the CNY Humanities Corridor filed a No Cost Extension (NCE) request to the Mellon Foundation on the spendable portion of the Phase III grant. The reason for the NCE request was cost-savings during the pre-endowment period, resulting from a lower-than-anticipated invoicing rate from working groups on approved grant activities as well as a six-month vacancy in the Program Coordinator administrative position. Of the initial Phase III balance of \$696,634, the Corridor had \$93,758.76 in remaining grant funds after the year-end closeout of the 2018 calendar year. This balance included unspent funds plus interest earned during the grant period. A decision on the NCE request is pending from the Mellon Foundation, as of August 28, 2019. The following initiatives were requested:

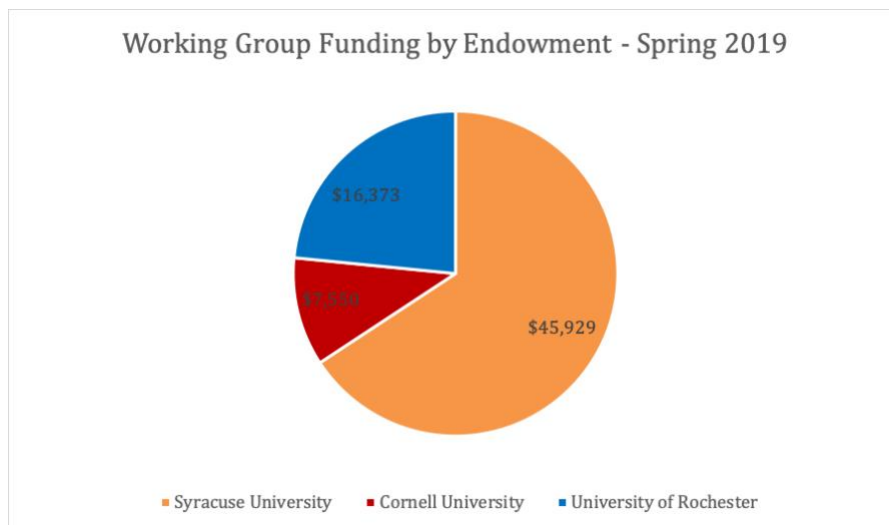
1. **Renewal of Initial Technology Investment Fund:** In Phase I of the original grant (2006-2008), a technology fund was established that provided \$30,000 to each of the Corridor institutions to purchase distance technology to support the collaborative objectives of working groups. This technology is now outdated and no longer in use. We requested to apply \$60,000 dollars (\$20,000 at each endowed Corridor institution) to renew technology equipment and services in support of the CNY Humanities Corridor.
2. **CNY Humanities Corridor Research/Writing Retreat.** This Corridor-wide activity will be planned by all three Directors, with primary logistical planning executed by Syracuse University, to take place during summer 2020, and will include faculty from all Corridor institutions, including faculty from the Liberal Arts Schools of the NY6.

Spring 2019 Working Groups and Awards

Budgeted awards for working group activities in Spring 2019 totaled \$69,852 to 34 working groups:

Corridor Endowment/ Activity Location	Target Budget Allotment	Spring 2019 Awards	Number of Research Activities
Syracuse University, NY6, and Le Moyne	\$60,000 (60%)	\$45,929 (66%)	32 (62%)
Cornell University	\$25,000 (25%)	\$7,550 (11%)	8 (15%)
University of Rochester and RIT	\$15,000 (15%)	\$16,373 (23%)	12 (23%)
TOTAL	\$100,000	\$69,852*	52

* This award level is particularly notable as it reflects only one semester of activity. In 2019-20, we are operating on an academic year model: the next report will reflect a full year of activity on the three endowments.

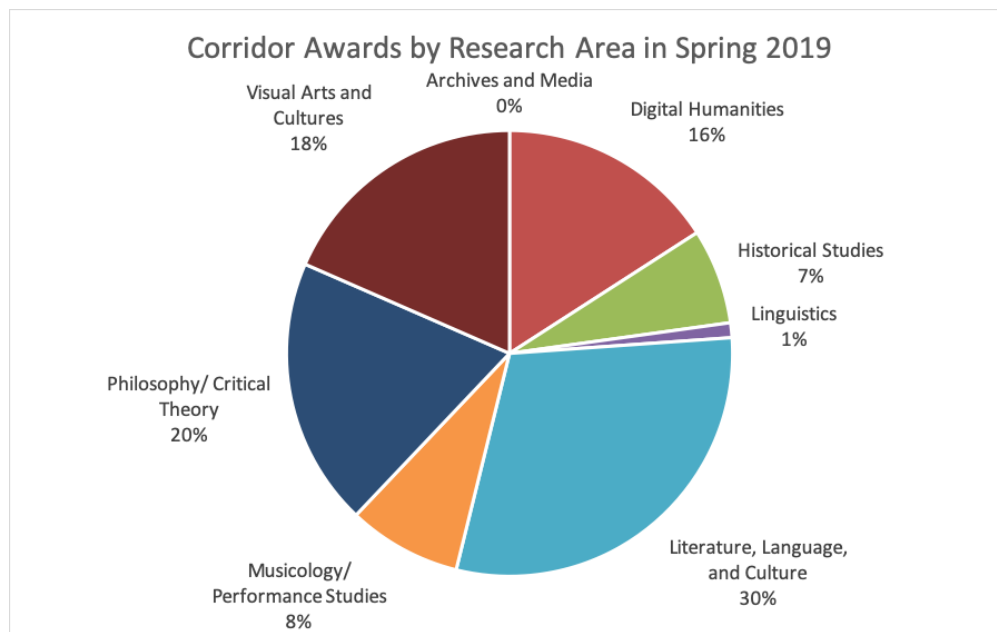


Of the eight research clusters, the Literature, Language, and Culture (LLC) research cluster supported the majority of working groups in Spring 2019, with a total of 10 active working groups. Visual Arts and Cultures supported seven working groups and Philosophy/Critical Theory (PHI) supported six. The new Historical Studies (HS) cluster supported four working groups followed by Digital Humanities (DH) and Musicology/Performance Studies, each with three groups. The Linguistics (LIN) cluster had one active group this spring, but we anticipate increased activity in the near future. The Archives and Media (AM) cluster was inactive this past year: however, a new group is starting up in 2019-20.

The 34 active Spring 2019 CNY Humanities Corridor working groups hosted 52 activities—comprising public lectures, panel discussions, interactive workshops, undergraduate and graduate student research presentations, master classes, performances, and film screenings—in which over 1,200 faculty, students, and other Corridor community members participated. Syracuse University and participating NY6 schools hosted 32 of these events (62%), Cornell University hosted 8 (15%), and the University of Rochester hosted 12 (23%). Detailed working group and event information is available on the CNY Humanities Corridor website <https://www.cnycorridor.net/working-groups/archive/2019-working-group-activities/>

Spring 2019 Activities by Cluster

Research Cluster	Total Awards	N° Working Groups	N° Events Hosted	Median Event Budget
Archives and Media	\$0	0	0	n/a
Digital Humanities	\$11,100	3	6	\$1,400
Historical Studies	\$4,825	4	5	\$1,000
Linguistics	\$750	1	1	\$750
Literature, Language, and Culture	\$20,940	10	17	\$1,500
Musicology/ Performance Studies	\$5,750	3	7	\$500
Philosophy/ Critical Theory	\$13,600	6	6	\$1,925
Visual Arts and Cultures	\$12,887	7	10	\$1,750
TOTAL	\$69,852	34	52	\$1,757 (avg.)



Breakdown of Other Programs in 2019 and Beyond

The three Corridor endowments operate independently, but collaboratively, at the three primary institutions. Each Mellon-awarded endowment has its own budget categories specific to each institution:

Cornell University

- Working Group Activities
- Faculty Travel
- Discretionary: Cornell Conference Initiative
- Digital Humanities
- Public Humanities Graduate Student Fellowships

Syracuse University

Syracuse University is the administrative home to the Corridor: administrative costs (e.g., staff salaries and fringe benefits, web services and publicity, and fiscal support for advisory board

and planning meetings) are embedded in the Syracuse endowment, as are expenses for the schools of the New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium (NY6), hence the larger endowment base.

- Working Group Activities
- Administration/Faculty Travel
- Distinguished Visiting Collaborator
- Advisory Board/Planning Meetings
- Web Services/Publicity
- Public Humanities Graduate Student Fellowships
- Admin Salaries/Fringe

University of Rochester

- Working Group Activities
- Faculty Travel
- Advertising/Supplies
- Digital Humanities
- Public Humanities Graduate Student Fellowships

To promote collaboration, an *Intra-Corridor Travel Fund* is available at each institution to bring together Working Group Coordinators from different campuses, and for faculty and graduate students to attend Corridor activities (workshops, symposia, lectures, etc.) at other Corridor institutions. The Corridor also supports *Humanities New York Public Humanities Graduate Student Fellowships* at Syracuse University, Cornell University, and the University of Rochester. This state-wide program encourages emerging scholars to conceive of their work in relation to the public sphere, develop skills for public engagement, and strengthen the public humanities community across New York State. The year-long fellowship involves training in public scholarship methods and work by the fellows to explore the public dimensions of their research in partnership with a community organization. The Corridor contributes \$5,000 toward these fellowships at each institution, for a total of \$15,000 in support from across the three endowments.

Leadership Transition, Administration, and Governance

Since 2008, the CNY Humanities Corridor had been led by Syracuse University Professor Gregg Lambert, who concluded his tenure on June 30, 2019. As of July 1, 2019, the Corridor's new Principal Investigator is Vivian M. May, Director of the Humanities Center and Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Syracuse University. The current Corridor administration and governance is now comprised of Vivian M. May, Principal Investigator, Syracuse University; Paul Fleming, Co-PI/Director of the Cornell University Society for the Humanities; and Professor Joan Rubin, Co-PI/Director of the University of Rochester Humanities Center. Aimee Germain serves as the Program Coordinator from the Corridor administrative office in the Syracuse University Humanities Center. There are additional administrative and budgetary staff members in each of the participating Humanities Centers, and the Corridor's administration requires effective collaboration and communication between all campuses.

As stipulated in the endowment proposal of July 11, 2014, approved by the Mellon Foundation as a governing document of the award, the Corridor's administration shall continue to reside in the Syracuse University Humanities Center, and activities will be coordinated at Syracuse University through the office of the Corridor PI/Director. Partner endowment institutions shall be represented by Co-PIs/Directors at Cornell and Rochester, who are responsible for overall project administration and financial management of their respective institutional endowments. (See Collaboration Agreement, Section 2: Governance.)

Following the No-Cost Extension period and beginning in January 2019, the Corridor's financial management structure was revised to process disbursements from the individual endowed accounts at Syracuse University, Cornell University, and the University of Rochester. However, the bi-annual review, approval, and award processes for Corridor activities continues to be coordinated by Syracuse University, and the primary leadership role of the CNY Humanities Corridor continues to reside at the Syracuse University Humanities Center. In the endowment phase, the financial management at Cornell University and University of Rochester has now transferred to the Co-PIs/Directors where the endowments reside. Spending is governed by each institution's policies pertaining to the use of restricted funds (rather than through sub-awards from the grant at Syracuse University, as has been the case during Phase I, II, and the pre-endowment period). This arrangement is detailed in the Collaboration Agreement, and more information is outlined in the summary of Restricted Terms of the Mellon Endowment Awards.

Corridor Advisory Board: The Corridor's administrative structure is supplemented by an annual Board meeting, inviting input on the Corridor and the CFP cycles as well as ideas for planning and continued improvement across the region. The Corridor's primary partner institution Directors review proposals and approve Corridor working groups and projects as well as other Corridor activities (i.e., Syracuse's Distinguished Visiting Collaborator, Rochester's Digital Humanities project, Cornell's conference initiative, faculty and/or student exchanges, and faculty travel).

The Board serves an important advisory function: members help foster awareness across the region and create a pipeline of information and feedback for the Corridor Directors to take up. At annual meetings—which rotate locations among the endowment institutions—the Board receives reports about the previous year's activities and budgets. Based on these reports, and based on discussion of other matters that arise across the course of a year, the Board offers recommendations for the year's two CFP cycles and review/award processes conducted by the Directors. The Board's composition, selection, and function is detailed in the Collaboration Agreement. The third annual Advisory Board meeting is being held on September 9, 2019 at Cornell University.

Advisory Board Member Turnover: Advisory Board representatives were appointed to terms of either two or three years in order to stagger the terms after the initial appointments. Those with two-year terms expired after the March 4, 2019 meeting, and those with three-year terms will expire after the 2019-20 academic year.

Special thanks to all outgoing Advisory Board members for their service.

Those with terms having ended in Spring 2019:

- Esra Akcan, Cornell University (2017-19)
- Peter Christensen, University of Rochester (2017-19)
- Julie Grossman, Le Moyne College (2017-19)
- Kendall Phillips, Syracuse University (2017-19)

Those with terms ending in Spring 2020, prior to our next board meeting:

- Debra Castillo, Cornell University (2017-20)
- Jessica Lacher-Feldman, University of Rochester (2017-20)
- David McCabe, Colgate University (2017-20)
- Tom Wilson, Hamilton College (2017-20)
- Amanda Eubanks Winkler, Syracuse University (2017-20)

Advisory Board Meeting Topics for Further Discussion

Most discussion items on the agenda for the September 9, 2019 meeting of the Corridor Advisory Board are distilled from the Spring 2019 Corridor Advisory Board meeting and the subsequent PI/Directors meeting held on May 21, 2019. Questions raised at these meetings which warrant further discussion fall under the following topics:

Corridor Reports/Annual Corridor Surveys: In last year's Advisory Board meeting and in previous PI/Directors meetings, the suggestion arose for a survey to be distributed among current and former working group coordinators via the listserv. Humanities outcomes often occur years later, and assessment can be off-putting. However, the Corridor can (and should) help humanities scholars think about grant applications, what is required for successful proposals and reports, and encourage thinking in these terms. Working Groups that receive funding within a reporting period/fiscal year are also required to submit annual reports. Asking about "outcomes" may make working groups feel as if they have to produce a book or something equally tangible.

By offering a range of outcomes to report on, we can underscore that meetings create collaborations and networking opportunities that are "outcomes" in the near-term. Revamped courses, a new article, or a new draft to an existing piece of work are all outcomes. Shorter-term outcomes often generate more substantive long-term outcomes. So, our challenge in administering "surveys" or "reports"—while necessary for our Mellon Foundation obligations—is how best to convey the value of assessment to humanities scholars in language that is inviting and useful. The goal is to gain key information yet keep reporting streamlined so as to not create an undue burden for those filling them out. Points for consideration:

- The term "report" can have obligatory connotations whereas "survey" may not. The return rate on the one-per-working-group annual reports has been notable: about 99%. We want individuals to complete annual surveys/reports. We do not want nomenclature to negatively impact return rates. Surveys, however, can invite more prospective thinking—whereas reporting can signal the need primarily to share after-the-fact information. We need both types of engagement.
- What type of information does the Advisory Board want to learn from these reports (e.g. metrics, narratives, outcomes, what's working, what's not working)? That is, what evaluative Corridor information would the Advisory Board like to review at the next meeting in Fall 2020?

Defining Signature Events: The Signature Events category on the 2018 CFP was a direct result of the 2018 Corridor Advisory Board meeting, but the meeting did not clearly define a Signature Event. For example, does a signature event require that it be a "big idea," and if so, how would that be defined? Given the level of funding, should there be a public component—meaning, that others across the Corridor and/or wider publics could attend some portion of the activities? Would conference seed money be appropriate here? Should this ideally be a cross-disciplinary or interdisciplinary event?

Special Programs Protocols: Each of the three CNY Humanities Corridor endowments contain language for special programs specific to each campus's needs and strengths. These programs are governed by the overall Corridor criteria and approval process, but may warrant some additional discussion as to how to best utilize these institution-specific funding lines. This pertains to Syracuse University's Distinguished Visiting Collaborator, Cornell University's Miscellaneous Fund (Cornell Conference Initiative), and both Cornell University's and University of Rochester's Digital Humanities Initiatives.

Cornell University

- *Leveraging its space, academic community, as well as its Discretionary funds and endowment earnings, The Society for the Humanities at Cornell University has launched the **Cornell Conference Initiative** to host Corridor-wide humanities conferences or large-scale workshops.*
- *The **Digital Humanities** initiative at Cornell University aims to tap into the Corridor's digital humanities resources and potential.*

Syracuse University

- *The **Distinguished Visiting Collaborator** at Syracuse University is a program designed to enhance liberal arts education in the region by bringing prominent external humanities scholars for brief residencies during which they give public lectures, lead small seminars, or offer symposia, and meet with students and faculty.*

University of Rochester

- *Building on the UR Digital Media Studies undergraduate degree and the UR Humanities Labs, the Digital Humanities Initiative taps into the Corridor's digital humanities resources and potential.*

We thank you for your support of and engagement with the Central New York Humanities Corridor, and look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,



Vivian M. May
Principal Investigator, CNY Humanities Corridor
Director, Humanities Center, Syracuse University
Professor, Women's and Gender Studies, Syracuse University

This report was prepared by Aimee Germain, the Central New York Humanities Corridor Coordinator, and Vivian May in August 2019.