CALL FOR PROPOSALS
2020-2021 Community Sabbatical Research Leave Program

The Humanities Institute at the University of Texas at Austin is proud to continue the groundbreaking program that supports ongoing research and intellectual work in the Austin nonprofit community: The Community Sabbatical Research Leave Program.

Many directors and professional staff of non-profit organization suffer from a lack of time to reflect and develop their expertise in the face of on-going daily demands. The Community Sabbatical Research Leave Program responds to this dilemma by helping to carve out the time and intellectual space for deeper reflection, research, and discussion about a question or issue that participants are seeking to resolve for their organization and those it serves. In addition to a $5,000 research stipend, the program provides participants with a UT faculty research consultant and access to the University’s libraries, archives, and databases. Organizations we have funded in the past range from educational and youth development organizations, to health and social service organizations, to arts and literacy organizations.

Grantees’ biographies and project descriptions will be posted on the Humanities Institute’s website. Upon completion of the sabbatical, grantees are asked to submit a short report to their organization and the Humanities Institute. The report will reflect knowledge gained, the extent to which goals identified in the sabbatical application have been met, and plans or prospects for implementation. Grantees will also give a public roundtable presentation on the results of their research.

Community Sabbatical awardees must be paid, full-time Executive Directors or professional staff members of nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organizations in the Austin area. The attached application includes a letter of support that must be signed by the Director or Chair of the Board of the applicant’s organization. (Applicants may not sign on their own behalf.) Documentation of 501(c)(3) status is also required.


For more information, please see the attached information and application packet, email Kathryn North at knorth@austin.utexas.edu, or call the Humanities Institute Office at 512-471-9056 during regular business hours.
Community Sabbatical Research Leave Application Guidelines

**Applicant Qualifications**
Applicants for the Community Sabbatical (CS) Research Leave Program must be full-time employees of a 501(c)(3) organization operating in Central Texas. We do not accept applications from consultants contracted with 501(c)(3)’s or from staff in non-501(c)(3) organizations.

The CS grant provides paid flexible leave to directors and staff members of Central Texas nonprofit organizations. Research takes place over the course of 160 hours during the 2020-2021 academic / fiscal year. Research hours must be documented. Applicants must obtain and submit with their application a leave-time approval form (attached) signed by the organization’s Executive Director or Board Chair.

**Determining if a project is appropriate for a Community Sabbatical grant**
Projects proposed under the Community Sabbatical program must address a clearly defined research question or problem related to the applicants’ organization or constituency. The work should go beyond the applicant’s day-to-day responsibilities. Proposals will be evaluated according to (i) the viability of the proposed project, (ii) demonstrated scope and impact, (iii) need for research to meet the applicant’s objectives, and (iv) compatibility with UT faculty expertise.

Consider the following examples:

The Executive Director of the Austin Public Library Friends Foundation was funded to examine the role of the public library in the 21st century as a path towards determining how Austin’s new central library can best serve the community.

The Founder and Executive Director of Texas Fair Defense Project (TFDP) was funded to research and develop a model for providing holistic criminal defense representation in Texas. Her model considered the circumstances that drive indigents into the criminal justice system and ways to offer them social support and advocacy.

The Operations and Development Director of Texas Folklife was funded to investigate best practices for preserving and circulating traditional Texas music. His research sought to address the role traditional music recordings have had in helping to nurture and sustain localized cultural production and the regional music of Texas.

The Director of International Research and Development for Migrant Clinicians Network was supported to explore the economic benefits of her organization’s work; she found that her organization’s efforts to ensure adequate healthcare through effective case management, data transfer and preventative treatment was cost-beneficial to hospitals and insurance companies.
Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit our Community Sabbatical webpage to view further information on the research projects that have been previously funded through a CS grant. Applicants with questions about their eligibility or proposed project are invited to contact the Humanities Institute prior to the submission deadline.

**Use of Funds**
The primary purpose of the stipend is to compensate grantees for leave time taken from their ordinary duties. With the permission of the organization’s Executive Director or Board Chair and the Director of the Humanities Institute, a portion of the grant funds may be used for necessary travel, equipment, and supplies.

**Faculty Research Partners and Library Liaisons**
Community Sabbatical grantees will be paired with a UT faculty member from a discipline appropriate to the awardee’s research project. We invite (but do not require) grantees to identify faculty members with whom they are particularly interested in working, or to identify any departments with whose faculty they would like to work. Once the grant is awarded, faculty research consultants are expected to meet and communicate regularly with the grantees. Faculty consultants’ responsibilities may include recommending readings, databases, and other materials; reviewing and commenting on the grantee’s project at various phases; recommending other campus contacts and relevant conferences; and generally serving as a liaison to scholarly resources and opportunities relevant to the grantee's project.

CS grantees will also be invited to consult with librarians on staff at the Perry Castañeda Library. The Humanities Institute will identify librarian liaisons to act as the primary library contact for CS grantees. CS librarians will guide grantees in their use of library resources, including connecting grantees with other library staff.

**Community Sabbatical Benefits and Responsibilities**
Once accepted into the program, Community Sabbatical grantees will receive:
- a stipend of $5,000 (paid in 3 installments) to support 160 hours of research activity.
- an assignment to a UT faculty research consultant.
- a UT EID, providing access to library materials and databases for the period of the grant.
- an orientation to the university, highlighting resources relevant to the grantee’s interests.
- a listing on the Humanities Institute website.

Community Sabbatical grantees will be responsible for:
- proposing and maintaining a viable research plan.
- completing all necessary documents for payment.
- communicating regularly with faculty research consultants about the sabbatical project.
- participating in two grantee meetings (at the beginning and end of the project) in order to discuss the research process and share research findings.
- producing a brief midterm report and a final report upon completion of the sabbatical term.
- completing the sabbatical within the scheduled timeframe.
**Sabbatical Scheduling**
The Sabbatical requires a 160-hour time commitment. This can be organized flexibly based on the demands of the organization and the nature of the sabbatical project. In developing your proposal, please consider carefully what will work best for you and your organization. To aid you in prioritizing the time spent on your sabbatical project, we offer models that have been successful in the past:

- A one-month intensive sabbatical, with four continuous weeks dedicated to the project.
- One week a month spread over four months.
- One 8-hour day per week for twenty weeks.
- One half-day per week for forty weeks.

The Executive Director or Chair of the Board of your organization must approve your application and your proposed timetable.

**Payment and Deliverable Schedule**
The award of $5,000 will be dispersed in 3 payments after submission and approval of the following deliverables:

- $2,000 upon completion and approval of the detailed work plan
- $2,000 upon completion and approval of the midterm report
- $1,000 upon completion of the final report and roundtable presentation

**Applying to the Community Sabbatical Program**
The deadline to submit Community Sabbatical applications for 2020-2021 is **May 15, 2020**. Projects that are accepted may begin any time after **September 1, 2020** and must be completed by **August 31, 2021**. The Community Sabbatical Advisory Council will review applications and will select finalists based on the written application materials. Final selections will be determined by personal interviews and by the availability of a suitable faculty match for the proposed project. In addition to project viability, applications will be evaluated for demonstrated scope and impact. **Successfully completed applications will identify a clearly defined question or issue that participants will pursue during the course of the sabbatical and will explain how that question or issue goes beyond the applicant’s ordinary duties and is relevant to the applicant’s organization and its constituents.**

Please email (1) the completed application packet, (2) the signed Project and Leave Time approval form, (3) a current résumé or CV, (4) a copy of the organization’s IRS determination letter, and (5) the 501(c)(3)’s organizational chart to knnorth@austin.utexas.edu by May 15, 2020. Alternatively, you may mail the application, postmarked by May 15, 2020, to:

**Community Sabbatical Research Leave Program**
**Humanities Institute**
**The University of Texas at Austin**
**HRC Suite 3.356, Mail F1900**
**P.O. Drawer 7219**
**Austin, TX 78713-7219**
APPLICATION FORM
2020-2021 Community Sabbatical Research Leave Program
Sponsored by the Humanities Institute at the University of Texas at Austin

Name: ____________________________________________________________

501(c)(3) Organization:____________________________________________

Job Title: _________________________________________________________

Mailing Address:___________________________________________________

E-mail: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Project Title:_______________________________________________________

Proposal:
Please attach an application letter with the following components:

1) An abstract of the research project. (1 paragraph)

2) A brief description of what your organization does and your role within it. (1 paragraph)

3) A description of how you would use this opportunity. What question or issue facing your organization’s constituents would you pursue? How would you approach it? What would you like to have accomplished by the end of your Community Sabbatical? (1-3 paragraphs)

4) A brief account of how your participation in the Community Sabbatical Research Leave Program would benefit your organization. (1 paragraph)

5) A brief account of how participating in the Community Sabbatical Research Leave Program would benefit you personally. (1 paragraph)

6) A brief description of the kind of scholarly expertise you think would be helpful to you in completing the project. You may, if you wish, include names of potential UT faculty research consultants. (1 paragraph)

7) A brief description of specific University resources that would be useful to you as you pursue the question or issue you describe above. These resources might include specific libraries or databases, exhibits, Centers or Institutes. Describe how you might use each one. (1 paragraph)

8) A proposed timetable for the use of the 160-hours of paid leave time that the Community Sabbatical Research Grant would provide.

In addition to the proposal, please also include:

☐ The signed application (this form)

☐ The signed Project and Leave Time Approval and Benefit-Sharing Certificate

☐ A résumé or CV

☐ A copy of your organization’s 501(c)(3) IRS determination letter

☐ A copy of the organizational chart of your nonprofit organization

Signature of Applicant ____________________________ Printed Name of Applicant ____________________________ Date ____________
This page of the application for a Community Sabbatical Research Leave must be read, completed, and signed by the sabbatical applicant and by the Executive Director (or Chair of the Board, if the applicant is the organization director) of the non-profit organization by which the applicant is employed.

I. Community Sabbatical Goals:

It is understood by the applicant and by the Executive Director / Board Chair of the applicant's non-profit organization that the purpose of the Community Sabbatical Research Leave Program is to provide full-time staff members of Central Texas non-profit community service organizations with paid flexible leave time to research an issue or develop a new program or service related to their organization and its constituency. By signing this form, the applicant and the applicant's supervisor certify that they have discussed the research project that is proposed in this application and agree that the sabbatical project is an appropriate and valuable one that is likely to benefit both the applicant and the organization and its constituency.

II. Financial Benefit-Sharing:

It is understood by the applicant and by the Executive Director / Board Chair of the applicant's organization that state restrictions prevent the University of Texas from awarding a grant payment to a community non-profit organization. Accordingly, individual recipients of the Community Sabbatical grant will be paid directly by the University of Texas in the amount of $5,000 for the sabbatical. By signing this form, the applicant and the applicant's Executive Director / Board Chair certify that they understand these financial terms.

III. Leave Time Approval:

It is understood by the applicant and by the Executive Director / Board Chair of the applicant's organization that recipients of a Community Sabbatical are expected to commit 160 hours to their project. By signing this form, the applicant and the applicant's Executive Director / Board Chair certify that they have reviewed and agreed on the length and proposed schedule of the Community Sabbatical and that accommodations have been made to cover the applicant’s other responsibilities during his/her sabbatical leave time.

_________________________________________  __________________________________________________
Applicant’s Signature & Date  Signature of Director/Board Chair & Date

_________________________________________  __________________________________________________
Printed Applicant’s name  Printed Name and Title of Director/Board Chair