



2021-2022 Annual Report to the CNY Humanities Corridor Advisory Board

This report discusses the Central New York Humanities Corridor activities and administration for Fiscal Year 2022. Based on a review of all 2021-2022 Working Group activities, end-of-year summaries, financial reports, and other documentation, this report includes:

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Introduction

As a regional consortium, the Central New York Humanities Corridor (Corridor) cultivates innovative collaborative research, teaching, and programming across 11 institutions supported by three separate endowments (at Syracuse University, the Corridor's administrative home, Cornell University, and the University of Rochester). As a result of the Corridor's financial and operational support, interdisciplinary Working Groups collaborate (regionally, nationally, and internationally) to: cultivate new research; transform methods and curricula; address historical and current injustices; link theory and practice; and meaningfully engage with wider communities. Remarkably, the Corridor continues to expand its geographic reach well beyond the physical boundaries of Central New York. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, over 4,500 individuals from more than 360 institutions, in at least 33 countries and 42 states engaged with Corridor Working Groups. Such regional and global breadth, possible in part due to remote-format collaborations, is quite impressive, and one that the Corridor hopes to maintain and grow over the years to come.

The Corridor fostered robust levels of Working Group activity and engagement this year, despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While Working Groups certainly faced some setbacks, many have been consistently creative and impressive in finding ways to flourish despite obstacles—whether virtually, in-person, or through hybrid activities. In FY2022, there were over 100 activities, including four “Signature Events” (which receive higher funding levels). This year's activities included: international and regional conferences and exhibitions; performances and digital recordings; the creation of podcasts and YouTube series; manuscript and research methods workshops; peer writing retreats; “author meets reader” symposia; and many peer-feedback activities to support research momentum and foster scholarly community. Without a doubt, Working Groups continue to bridge theory/practice, expand local engagement and global reach, meaningfully impact research productivity and student engagement, and provide opportunities for the humanities to be “at work in the world” to solve today's societal issues.

There are many successes highlighted throughout this report. At the same time, Corridor leadership understands feedback from many Working Groups that remote or hybrid activities can be less intimate than in-person collaborations. In particular, finding ways to have casual interactions or lingering dialogues remains difficult at times. However, what stands out in this third year of the pandemic is how so many Working Groups are innovating in the face of what, not that long ago, seemed to be insurmountable obstacles. Increasingly, many Working Groups appreciate how remote-format platforms significantly broaden the reach of collaborations, support those who cannot travel (and thus can be more inclusive), can help bridge time zones and communities, and are greener.

An upshot of remote-format and digital collaborations is the degree to which many Working Group activities, “born digital,” have relatively immediate built-in impacts and outcomes. These impacts and outcomes include recordings of performances, workshops or presentations to be used by other researchers or in classrooms across the consortium, as well as new digital archives

or repositories (e.g., the digitization of previously unavailable musical scores, manuscripts, and more). More traditional forms of scholarly outcomes also continue to abound—with an impressive range of new books, journal articles, edited volumes, and exhibitions supported by Corridor seed funding and collaborations.

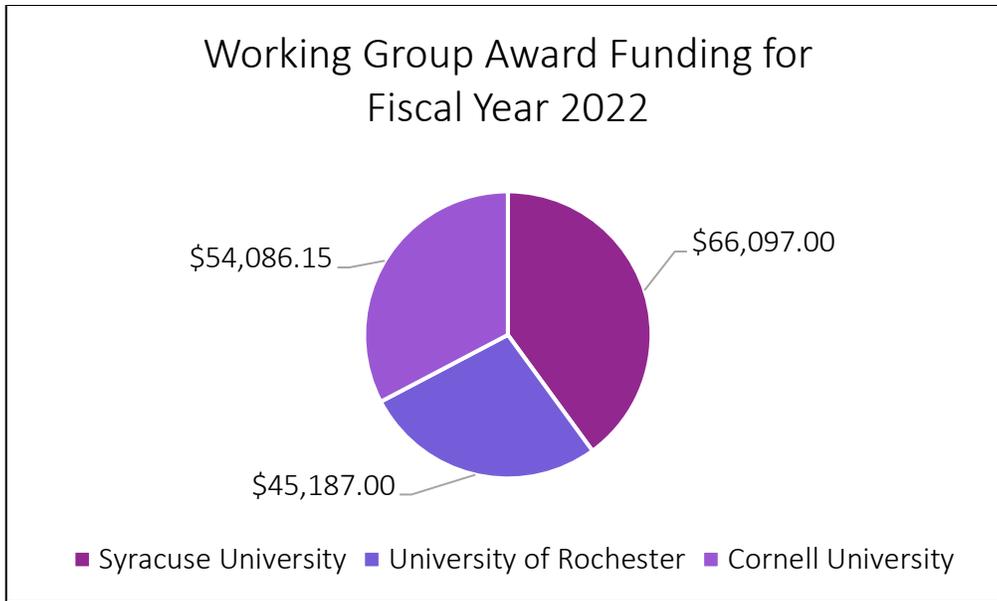
In addition to supporting a broad and diverse range of Working Group activities, Corridor leadership continued to invest time and resources offer centrally-organized Corridor-wide research support offerings, an innovation begun at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. By pooling from across the three endowments via new collaborative fiscal policies devised in FY 2022, the Corridor has now regularized this annual slate of offerings. The consortium-wide research support activities this year included a new application-based annual Corridor Fall Writing Retreat as well as three online workshops open to all Corridor institutions (including non-tenure track faculty, graduate students, and academic staff) focused on writing strategies, imposter syndrome, and building research pipelines. There is no doubt that these offerings play an important role in helping to diversify pathways to participation in the Corridor and to foster humanities collaboration and community across the region in different ways.

In short, to continue to help faculty collaborate, build research community, and navigate this “new normal” that COVID-19 and other global challenges present, whether via Working Group funding cycles or new research-support offerings and activities, the Corridor will continue to provide a range of opportunities for meaningful engagement across the region and well beyond.

Progress

Each year, the Corridor capitalizes on its biggest strength: providing mechanisms and seed funding to help build and maintain a variety of purposeful research, cultural, and pedagogical relationships and projects. Working Group awards draw from the consortium’s three endowments to support activities across the Corridor’s 11 institutions. (The Corridor’s 11 institutions are: Colgate University, Cornell University, Hamilton College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Le Moyne College, the Rochester Institute of Technology, Skidmore College, St. Lawrence University, Syracuse University, Union College, and the University of Rochester.) As such, the Corridor’s backing is a powerful resource that enhances the region’s humanities research and teaching landscape in a supportive environment.

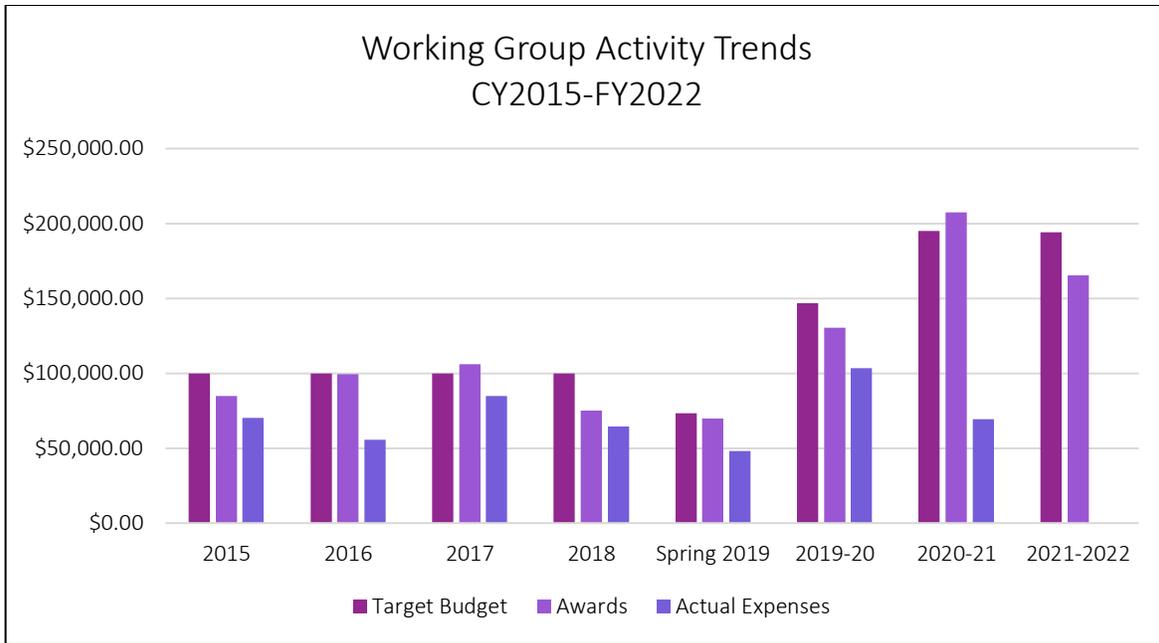
For FY2022, the Corridor awarded \$165,370 in support of 50 Working Groups organizing more than 100 activities across all 11 Corridor Institutions. While many Working Groups continued to hold remote or hybrid activities given the ongoing pandemic, “host” campuses were still used to identify where funds would be awarded and to signal which campuses were primarily responsible for organizing the activities.



In the pie chart above, the Corridor’s three endowments are shown with Syracuse University having the highest award total at \$66,097.00 during Fiscal Year 2022. The Syracuse University endowment covers activities at Syracuse University, the schools of the New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium (NY6), and Le Moyne College. The University of Rochester endowment covers activities at the University of Rochester and the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Working Group Award Budget Allotment v. Funding for Fiscal Year 2022		
Corridor Endowment	Targeted Working Group Budget Allotment	2021-2022 Awards
Syracuse University, New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium, and Le Moyne College	\$85,000	\$66,097.00
Cornell University	\$51,487	\$54,086.15
University of Rochester and Rochester Institute of Technology	\$57,720	\$45,187.00

The table above reflects the targeted Working Group budgets for FY2022, and the awards granted. While there was a slight decrease in the overall number of awards granted in FY2022 due to COVID-19 and other challenges, Corridor leadership remains committed to expanding Corridor involvement and the number of awards moving forward.



As outlined in the chart above, Working Groups historically under-spend their awards. At the time of this report, FY2022 actual expenses for Cornell University and the University of Rochester are unavailable. However, Syracuse University actual expenses (supporting awards and activities at eight of the consortium’s campuses) signal that the pandemic’s impact in FY2022 continued to be significant. This year, the gap between Working Group awards and actuals looks to be the largest since the Corridor began tracking this trend in FY2015, due mostly to cancellations of in-person activities or to lower costs associated with switching to remote-format collaborations.

Under-spending of awards by Working Groups prompted Corridor leadership to decide to innovate in three key areas:

- First, in consultation with the Corridor Advisory Board (Board), Directors increased Working Group award funding levels for the first time in many years. This began during the Spring 2022 Call for Proposals. New Working Groups are now eligible to receive up to \$2,000 in funding during their first proposal period, and active Working Groups can now receive up to \$6,000 per academic year (\$3,000 per award).
- Second, and discussed further below, Working Groups are now eligible to request accessibility services funding (e.g., real-time transcription, American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation) to make offerings and activities more inclusive. Provided above and beyond their usual award caps, this support fosters inclusion and, in essence, provides many Working Groups with higher levels of funding.
- The third innovation Directors leveraged from the trend of Working Groups under-spending was to formalize a new cost-share mechanism. The new mechanism draws from all three endowments to support the annual Fall Writing Retreat and several other centrally organized Corridor-wide research support workshops and offerings throughout the academic year.

Moving forward, the Corridor will continue to monitor the under-spending as well as the impact of increased award levels, accessibility funding, and the cost-share mechanisms to support the Corridor-wide research offerings.

Accessibility Services Funding

At the Fall 2020 Board meeting, there was discussion about providing Working Groups with additional funding for accessibility services (e.g., real-time transcription, ASL interpretation). Through analysis, Corridor staff determined that a large portion of many Working Groups’ award budgets was being spent on such services. To encourage inclusive practices in collaborative projects and public-facing offerings, and in response to Board input, in the Spring 2021 funding cycle, Corridor Directors began to offer Groups the opportunity to specify a need for accessibility services funding. The additional funding has been well-received, as evidenced in the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 funding cycles. Corridor Directors will continue to monitor this additional funding and make further adjustments in the future to encourage inclusive format activities.

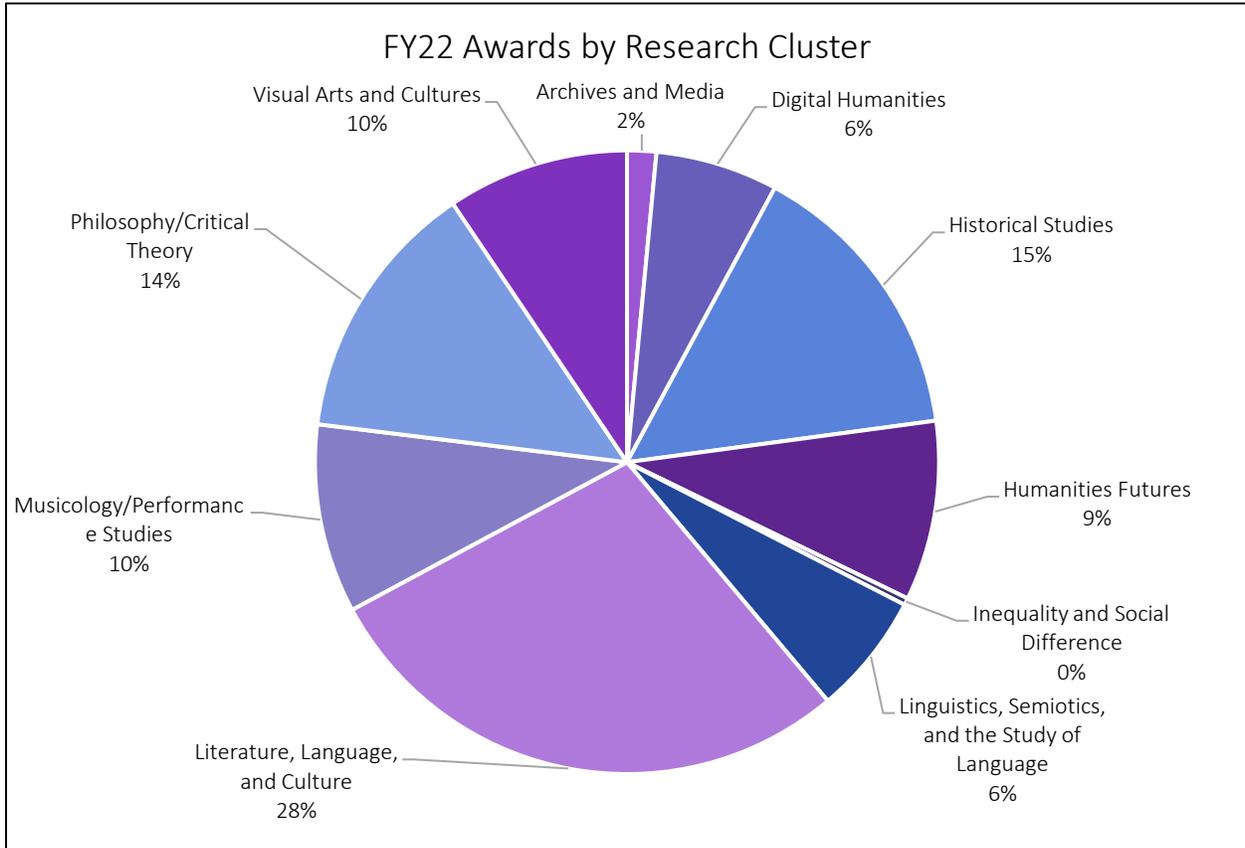
2021-2022 Activities by Research Cluster

Over the last several years, the Corridor has created some new research clusters following consultation with the Board and in response to Working Group feedback. Clusters are defined so as to encourage interdisciplinarity but also allow for deeper dives into a specific issue or focus. While there were no new research clusters created during this fiscal year, the existing clusters provide a comprehensive infrastructure in which collaborative humanities research is support or nested within.

The following table summarizes FY2022 awards and Working Groups per research cluster:

Fiscal Year 2022 Working Group Awards by Cluster		
Research Cluster	Total Awards	Number of Active Working Groups
Archives and Media	\$2,500	1
Digital Humanities	\$10,500	4
Historical Studies	24,814	10
Humanities Futures	\$15,430	6
Inequality and Social Difference	\$600	7
Linguistics, Semiotics, and the Study of Language	\$10,440	5
Literature, Language, and Culture	\$46,766	11
Musicology/Performance Studies	\$16,200	6
Philosophy/Critical Theory	\$22,530	5
Visual Arts and Cultures	\$15,590	5

The following pie chart illustrates the percentage of FY2022 award funding by research cluster:



Digital Formats

Fiscal Year 2022 presented Working Groups with opportunities to carry on with remote activities, but also introduce hybrid and/or return to in-person activities due to vaccination requirements across all Corridor campuses and evolving public health guidelines. Virtual collaborative platforms continued to provide a lower per-activity cost than in-person events and meetings. However, as noted throughout this report, the overall under-spending by Working Groups has allowed Corridor Directors to pursue other types of research support offerings. It remains to be seen, in the next fiscal year, whether the trend of more hybrid and remote activities remains, or whether Groups will aim to return to primarily in-person activities.

Working Groups highlighted the many successes and opportunities that digital formats provided in their year-end reports. One Working Group noted in their annual report that “the online format in our case allowed for greater participation across many different time zones.” Another Working Group noted that, by using Zoom, Timothy Brook, one of the most prominent experts on sovereignty and China’s international relations in the early modern and modern period, was able to participate when travel was restricted due to COVID-19. These are just two examples of the positive impact of online and hybrid activities on many Working Groups.

Despite the progress achieved in navigating the pandemic’s ups and downs, some Working Groups still faced difficulties with shifting their activities virtually. Some noted that hybrid events are “a mixed blessing” because of the lack of “interstitial space at the end of an event” and that an overall sense of meaningful connection is harder to foster. Clearly, there have been fewer occasions for individual discussions and personalized mentoring and networking.

In the end, online work continues to offer many advantages (including convenience, lower costs, greener practices, and more international collaborations and engagements), even as some of the constraints and obstacles that emerged during the last two fiscal years remain. The Corridor anticipates that hybrid/virtual activities will become a regular feature of contemporary public and academic life.

Increasing Breadth & Inclusivity

In FY2021, the Corridor reported that the pandemic allowed an opportunity for online engagement to significantly expand and widen the collaborative community that the Corridor supports. This trend continued this year. Notably, in addition to deepening ties across the region and fostering connections within the bounds of Central New York, Corridor collaborations showed a remarkable breadth of engagement, nationally and globally.

Fiscal Year 2022 marked further expansion in terms of the geographic impact and reach of Corridor collaborations. Based on annual reports submitted by Working Groups, over 4,500 individuals from more than 360 institutions, in at least 33 countries and 42 states, engaged with Corridor Working Groups. Additionally, this year, the Corridor noted that Native scholars, artists, leaders, and activists from more than a dozen Indigenous nations engaged with (or helped to organize, as Corridor faculty and staff) Corridor Working Group activities.

Figure 1: Map of Countries with Corridor Interaction

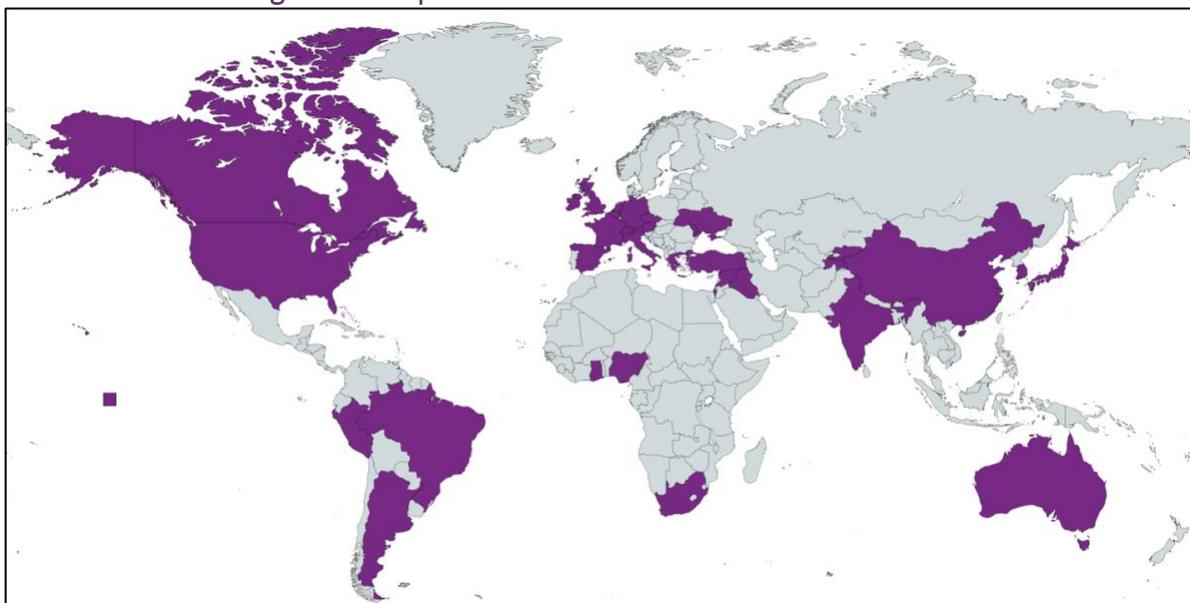
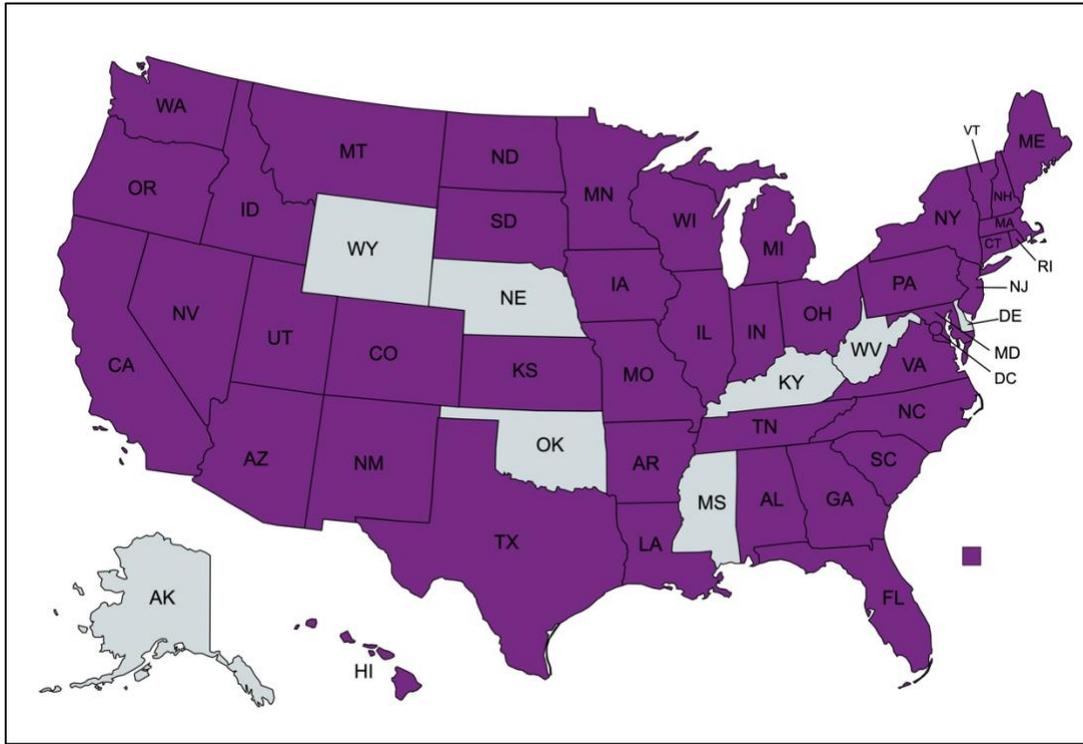


Figure 2: Map of States with Corridor Interaction



During FY2022, there were 50 active Working Groups organizing activities. Fifty-six proposals were received during the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 funding cycles. While the number of active Working Groups has not returned to the peak in FY2020 (before the pandemic), Corridor Directors remain hopeful that more Working Groups will become “active” again by using virtual formats that provide for research collaboration and community during the current situation. The Corridor hosted its first-ever “virtual fireside chat” for the Spring 2022 Call for Proposals. This Zoom information session allowed new Working Group organizers to learn more about how Corridor funding works and to pose questions to the Corridor Director and Program Manager. As a result, three of the individuals who attended submitted proposals for new Working Groups. This is another example of the Corridor’s continued focus on providing new entry paths into the consortium’s many opportunities.

Working Groups in Action

Working Groups are required to submit annual reports when awards are granted (and the ensuing activities take place). These annual reports provide a lens into the Corridor’s ongoing core efforts while allowing Directors an opportunity to identify areas for innovation and improvement. Working Groups’ activities, which vary by format, scale, and focus, show alignment with the Corridor’s mission: to de-silo, build community, provide research support, foster mentoring opportunities for junior faculty and students, and create a sense of connection and accountability toward one another.

Support of junior faculty takes many forms and includes individualized workshopping of papers/manuscripts by untenured peers as well as mentoring from more senior faculty from across the consortium and from external experts invited to provide responses to works-in-progress. One Working Group noted in their annual report that their mentorship of a junior faculty member of color helped support that person's transition from a non-tenure-track position to a tenure-track role. Moreover, regional connections forged by Working Groups help build networks in which scholars can flourish. HS13: Research and Narrative in Modern European History Working Group was newly formed during FY2022. In their annual report, they noted that they successfully met their first-year goals: "to establish a community for ... [developing] works-in-progress." They found their initial "retreat was an enormous success" and they plan "to expand the list of participants" in the next year to further solidify and build networks.

The breadth of issues that Working Groups take up in their collaborations shows sustained focus on bridging scholarship with activism (praxis) and addressing a wide variety of societal issues. Many collaborations underscore how the humanities are essential for solving today's most pressing issues. Activities this year took up a range of social justice topics and sought to address structural inequality in myriad ways, including (this list is not exhaustive):

- Deepening decolonial approaches to curriculum, art and material culture, language and literature teaching, fashion, and more;
- Partnering with community organizations to address topics such as literacy, heritage languages, and incarceration and decarceration;
- Mapping inequality and addressing structural poverty in local communities;
- Transforming research practices and pursuing equity in research by rethinking archival methods, digitizing musical scores to address historical gaps, and analyzing artificial intelligence algorithms;
- Advocating for language rights and heritage language knowledges and combatting white/Anglo language norms;
- Pursuing cross-border work and transnational approaches to architecture, languages, literature, and ecology that better account for historical and present human migration;
- Furthering the field of Disability Studies, whether via activities tackling ableism and normative embodiment, hosting an international writing retreat, or by advancing ASL linguistics and translations;
- Engaging with social movements, including HIV/AIDS activism; the decarceration movement; Indigenous land-back and sovereignty movements; and climate activism;
- Collaborating to address the absence of women's intellectual and cultural contributions in existing archives and to democratize access to musical scores and theory;
- Addressing systemic racism, including housing segregation, bias and racism in mathematics, health disparities, and environmental racism;
- Wrestling with climate change and the Anthropocene, via environmental humanities and environmental justice projects; and
- Repairing archival gaps/knowledge gaps, particularly those around race, gender, and disability.

Working Groups consistently connect their research to societal issues in their annual reports. For instance, LIN13: CNY Spanish Linguistics Working Group has focused on dual language immersion in education in the United States for students and professors. As a result of one of their activities in FY2022, one of the presenters was invited to speak to local public school administrators, teachers, and parents about the benefits of a dual language Spanish program for primary grades, the challenges of such programs, and the future of such programs funded and supported by state legislatures.

Digital-format outcomes, produced thanks to Corridor funding, also flourished in FY2022. This year, alone, Working Groups created YouTube series, podcasts, videos, and digital/online archives that will be used by those inside and outside the academy to advance the work of the humanities. Notably, LIN12: Sign Language and Deaf Culture Working Group created four videos to provide a translated summary of published sign language research. This was a project in conjunction with the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology. These videos were created as many in the Deaf community are unable to access most scholarly research on sign language linguistics and signed language acquisition. To begin to address this gap (which also implies that scholars of Deaf linguistics are not anticipated to be Deaf), and in the spirit of “nothing about us without us,” the Group produced four videos translating some foundational research articles.

These examples provide but a glimpse of the many wide-ranging outcomes from this last year, and, of course, Working Group activities have a cumulative impact and build momentum well beyond the year in which their work together begins.

Student Engagement

Since its inception, the Corridor has promoted involvement with undergraduate and graduate students, even as students cannot be Working Group organizers. Such efforts have a long-term and positive impression on students as knowers in their own right: students interact with high-profile speakers, present and workshop papers, create exhibits, perform on the region’s impressive range of historical musical instruments, and help produce deliverables that, in turn, help a Working Group to have a lasting impact.

Undergraduate students primarily participate through event attendance and class engagement. However, there are other opportunities for undergraduates to assist in research and to practice their presentation skills. This year, HS9: HIV/AIDS Activism and Public Health Working Group held a satellite exhibition focused on HIV/AIDS education posters. The satellite exhibition followed a Signature Event hosted by HS9 focused on the history of HIV/AIDS activism. Undergraduate Museum Studies students from the Rochester Institute of Technology installed and de-installed an exhibition of 38 posters. Students not only learned about the subject matter but put knowledge into practice as they prepared for their future careers.

The Corridor serves as a unique space to cultivate, mentor, and support graduate students as scholars and interlocutors. Graduate students can be members or participants of Working

Groups. As such, graduate students benefited from attending events, mentoring peers as well as undergraduate students, participating in dialogues, and receiving feedback on their works-in-progress. For example, PCT1: The Creighton Club Working Group hosted the Centennial Conference in April 2022. Three graduate students were invited to give lectures and receive first-hand feedback from high-profile philosophers in attendance. The graduate students gained invaluable experience and forged connections as they prepare for careers in academia.

Curriculum transformation is another important, albeit less direct, means of student engagement fostered by Corridor collaborations. This impact ranges from primary and secondary education curricula regarding literacy and mathematics to undergraduate language courses with new decolonial frameworks to Spanish courses with transformed global approaches to language and literature. This year, the Corridor was proud to sponsor an award for HF3: Community-Engaged Public Humanities. The Working Group held an activity in May 2022 focused on using mathematics to address structural racism embedded in local histories. At the activity, primary and secondary students used mathematics skills (e.g., finding the equation of a line) to understand policy decisions and “urban renewal” projects that impacted the 15th Ward of Syracuse, New York. (For context, Syracuse’s 15th Ward was the center of the city’s Black community while also being home to a large Jewish and immigrant population. It was largely demolished in the 1950s due to the construction of Interstate 81). Activities also addressed present-day realities of food injustice and environmental racism, particularly the negative impact on health for those who live near Interstate 81.

Faculty Writing Retreats

The Mellon Foundation provided a No-Cost Extension (NCE) to the Corridor to support faculty writing retreats and the redevelopment of the Corridor website. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the July 2020 in-person writing retreat and the website development were delayed (discussed in a subsequent section). Thus, the Mellon Foundation granted an extension into 2021.

The initial in-person writing retreat was supposed to feature Michelle Boyd of InkWell (in-person) in July 2020. Due to the cancellation, Boyd instead led an immersive, two-day online writing retreat in July 2021 for the original awardee cohort to maintain a sense of connection and continuity. Some of the original awardees had to withdraw due to schedule conflicts, but this allowed several on the original 2020 awardee waitlist applicants to attend. Overall, at the summer 2021 online writing retreat with Michelle Boyd, there were 32 participants with 31% BIPOC, 34% first-generation, 31% LGBTQ+, and 78% women faculty. Boyd focused on sustainable writing habits, combating being overwhelmed, making the most of one’s writing time, and modeled how to get ‘unstuck’ via spotlight coaching sessions. In post-retreat survey responses, attendees underscored that “Michelle and her workshops are pearls,” that the retreat was “a game-changer,” and that they had “never had a more thoughtful, grounded, and compassionate leader for a retreat.

Once vaccinations were universally available, the Corridor offered an additional in-person writing retreat in October 2021 at the Minnowbrook Conference Center in Blue Mountain Lake, New York. Due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., childcare), some awardees withdrew. Nineteen faculty members, including two Corridor Directors, attended. Participants were 26% BIPOC, 47% first-generation, 32% LGBTQ+, and 84% women faculty. Jennifer Ahern-Dodson (Duke University), and Monique Dufour (Virginia Tech) co-facilitated the retreat remotely via Zoom. Ahern-Dodson and Dufour guided writing sessions, one-on-one consultations, and workshops addressing how to navigate through difficult writing stages, overcome writer's block, and cultivate diverse readers for one's work.

An in-person retreat with remote facilitators proved to be highly effective, as it allowed faculty to work across the property while coming together online for workshops and outdoors at social hours to connect. Overall, the cohort thrived. In post-retreat survey responses, attendees expressed sentiments of "winning the lottery," described the programming as a "godsend," and found the opportunity beneficial for advancing work and forging connections. Bonds formed at the retreat led to a new writing group and to a new Corridor Working Group comprised of faculty who are the only tenure-line Black women humanities division faculty at their home institutions.

Given its success and impact, Corridor Directors decided to regularize the in-person fall writing retreat with remote facilitation. As noted earlier in this report, since Working Groups under-spend their annual awards, a new cost-sharing mechanism was implemented to support the regularization of subsequent writing retreats. In December 2021, applications opened for the Fall 2022 writing retreat. Applications increased by 56% from the NCE pilot retreat. Out of 71 applications, Directors selected 33 awardees. The Fall 2022 cohort is 36% BIPOC, 21% first-generation, 18% LGBTQ+, and 76% women faculty. The faculty writing retreats provide faculty with intensive opportunities to reinvigorate scholarly momentum, navigate writing obstacles, create lasting connections, and benefit from the Corridor's supportive community.

Additional Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Support Offerings

There is no question that the pandemic has fundamentally reorganized everyone's lives. Research momentum, for many, has been negatively impacted. In addition, isolation and a sense of fractured community are factors the Corridor has aimed to address since the start of the pandemic. Corridor Directors recognize the need to continue to provide faculty, staff, and graduate students additional and different forms of research support and engagement during these difficult times, in addition to the traditional Working Group funding cycles and awards. As a result, the Directors aim to provide one to two Corridor-wide mini-retreats or research workshops each year to help foster connections and community across the region in new ways. Syracuse University's Office of Research, and specifically Sarah Workman, Assistant Director for Proposal Development in the Humanities, helps to coordinate and sponsor these consortium-wide opportunities.

All three workshops held during FY2022 were well-attended, well-received, and led to requests for more workshops. In December 2021, the Corridor sponsored a workshop with the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity. Rachel McLaren, from the University of Iowa, led a workshop geared toward faculty, staff, and graduate students focused on how to recognize writing blocks and move through them. Topics included identifying resistance, the three most common types of writing blocks, and how to build accountability into one's writing practice and projects. There were 283 total registrants at the workshop.

At the end of the Spring 2022 semester, the Corridor hosted two workshops with Michelle Thompson of Resistant Vision. The first focused on imposter syndrome and perfectionism as issues that can negatively impact academic life. Thompson provided strategies on how to manage and overcome these roadblocks and how to craft a workable plan for summer research. The second workshop focused on strategies to recenter one's purpose as a scholar and to prioritize writing needs in a balanced way. Thompson addressed how to avoid "binge-bust writing cycles" that impede progress and provided examples of sustainable writing habits and prompts to help achieve a workable summer research plan. The first workshop with Thompson had 98 registrants, and the second workshop had 122 registrants.

Operations and Personnel

Syracuse University serves as the Corridor's administrative home and the Program Manager and Director work collaboratively with Humanities Center Directors and staff across the three endowment institutions. Corridor Directors and staff meet regularly to discuss Corridor priorities, identify areas for improvement, and to review policy decisions to ensure the consortium's long-term success. As the Corridor continues to grow and expand, in FY2022 the new Corridor Program Manager implemented several new tracking mechanisms to help monitor priorities, policy decisions, action items, and data.

New Leadership and Staff Transitions

At the close of FY2022, Corridor Co-Director Joan Shelley Rubin stepped down as the inaugural Ani and Mark Gabrellian Director of the University of Rochester's Humanities Center. Rubin led the center since its inception in 2015 and will continue at the University of Rochester as the Dexter Perkins Professor of History. Peter Christensen, an internationally recognized scholar of architectural history and design, was named the new Ani and Mark Gabrellian Director of the University of Rochester's Humanities Center. In this new role, Christensen will serve as a Co-Director of the Corridor.

Aimee Germain left her position as Corridor Program Manager in August 2021. She accepted a position with the University of Vermont. Following a recruitment, Kathleen "Katie" Walpole joined the Corridor as the new Program Manager in late November 2021.

Endowment Cost-Shares

In order to sustain operations and support the annual writing retreat and additional research support offerings, Corridor Directors agreed on a policy to create endowment cost-shares. This allows for the various offerings and the retreat to be supported by all three endowments rather than only the Syracuse University endowment. Through the formalization of such a policy, the Corridor can continue to promote humanities collaborations across the region and track the broader impact of its funding to support research offerings.

Corridor Advisory Board

The Board plays an important consultative role in the consortium's administrative structure and operations. At the annual meeting, Board members receive reports on the previous year's activities, programs, and budgets, learn about key trends and issues, and share insights around the table. Furthermore, the Board provides input to the Directors on matters, including programmatic initiatives and budgetary and policy issues.

Syracuse University, Cornell University, and the University of Rochester are represented by the Directors of their respective humanities centers and two additional members. Other active, engaged partner institutions may also have representation. The Directors aim to continue to diversify Board membership across race, ethnicity, and gender lines, tenure-line and contingent faculty status, academic staff, interdisciplinary fields, and first-generation college graduates. Due to the pandemic, the Board met virtually, again, in December 2021. Discussion focused on the impact of digital collaborations (positive and negative) with Corridor funding, research support initiatives, and working group under-spending. Members expressed continued support for the increased funding award levels (as mentioned in a previous section of this report) and the continuation of new centrally-organized Corridor-wide research support offerings (also highlighted in this report). The concluding discussion focused on balancing innovation and growth with operational capacity. All feedback received was used by the Directors and Corridor staff in decision-making to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Corridor.

Website Redevelopment

The Corridor is an imagined entity supporting collaboration across a large geographic region. Therefore, the website is pivotal as it makes the Corridor tangible. Following the Spring 2020 Corridor survey feedback, the Corridor pursued a complete website redesign as constituents wanted a more user-friendly, searchable, and accessible interface.

After the Mellon Foundation approved using NCE funds to build a new website (following the request for the extension into calendar year 2021 due to the pandemic), rather than purchasing equipment as first proposed, the Corridor Directors selected a website redevelopment vendor in 2020. After soliciting proposals from inside and outside New York, the Corridor ultimately chose Cleveland-based firm CodeRed due to its competitive bid and superior content management system (CMS) that could best meet high accessibility standards. Additionally, CodeRed included

design work in their bid, allowing the Corridor to re-brand with a new logo and vibrant color palette. The logo has 11 purple ombre droplets forming a circle to symbolize an open, collaborative community across the Corridor's 11 institutions.

Syracuse University's lengthy contract review process delayed website redevelopment until March 2021. Fortunately, the new site went "live" in August 2021, before the start of the academic year. The new website is robust, mobile-friendly, clear, promotes a sense of community, and diversifies the Corridor's communication approaches. Importantly, it allows constituents to learn about Corridor-sponsored activities via a searchable calendar and Working Groups can highlight their successes. Further, it exceeds Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 (WCAG) Level AA ratings.

Evaluations

Due to staffing issues and other operational issues this year, a Corridor-wide survey was not conducted. Working Group organizers provide feedback to the Corridor each year, via their annual report form and email correspondence with the Program Manager. Additional feedback is also collected from Corridor Advisory Board members. All feedback is kept anonymously and used to sustain and advance the Corridor's mission.

Summary

FY2022 continued to provide challenges due to the pandemic and, of course, due to the vacant Corridor Program Manager position from mid-August to late November 2021. However, the Corridor was able to navigate these challenges and have yet another successful year. Corridor Directors and administrative staff continue to offer support to faculty, academic staff, and students across the region despite some of the constraints posed by the digital ecosystem. As highlighted throughout this report, Working Groups adapted to the ever-changing circumstances to hold meaningful activities with long-lasting impacts. In addition, the Corridor implemented and regularized new Corridor-wide research support opportunities, such as the annual Fall Writing Retreat and the Fall and Spring research/writing momentum workshops. The Corridor is well-situated as we enter another academic year: Central New York is fortunate to have such a thriving and engaged community of humanists, and the Corridor feels privileged to support the important, wide-ranging efforts of the region's scholars, artists, performers, and activists.

Respectfully submitted on August 3, 2022, by:



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