



2022-23 Annual Report to the CNY Humanities Corridor Advisory Board

This report discusses the Central New York Humanities Corridor activities and administration for Fiscal Year 2023 based on a review of all 2022-23 Working Group activities, end-of-year summaries, financial reports, and other documentation.

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Working Groups Provide the Corridor's Foundation	2
Making Strides	3
Interdisciplinary Research: By the Numbers, 2022-23	3
Collaborative Working Groups: Dispatches from the Field	5
Structural Inequality and Public Engagement	6
Student Engagement, Mentoring, and Curricular Change	6
Scholarly Momentum, Innovation, and Impact	10
Scholarly works published and submitted for publication reported in FY23	10
Grants and Fellowships noted in FY23	11
Archive-Building in FY23	12
Prioritizing Breadth & Inclusivity	12
Bolstering Faculty with Writing Retreats	14
Professional Development for Graduate Students, Faculty, and Staff	16
Making Things Go: Operations and Personnel	16
New Leadership and Staff Transitions	16
Our Advisory Board's Pivotal Role	17
Fiscal Responsibility	18
Coping with Inflation	18
Responding to Underspend on Working Group Awards	19
Increasing Working Group Funding	20
Shifting to a Once-Per-Year Funding Cycle	21
Cost-Sharing Between Endowments	22
Website Redevelopment	22
Evaluating Our Programs and Operations	22
Looking Back, Moving Forward: A Five-Year Snapshot	23

Introduction

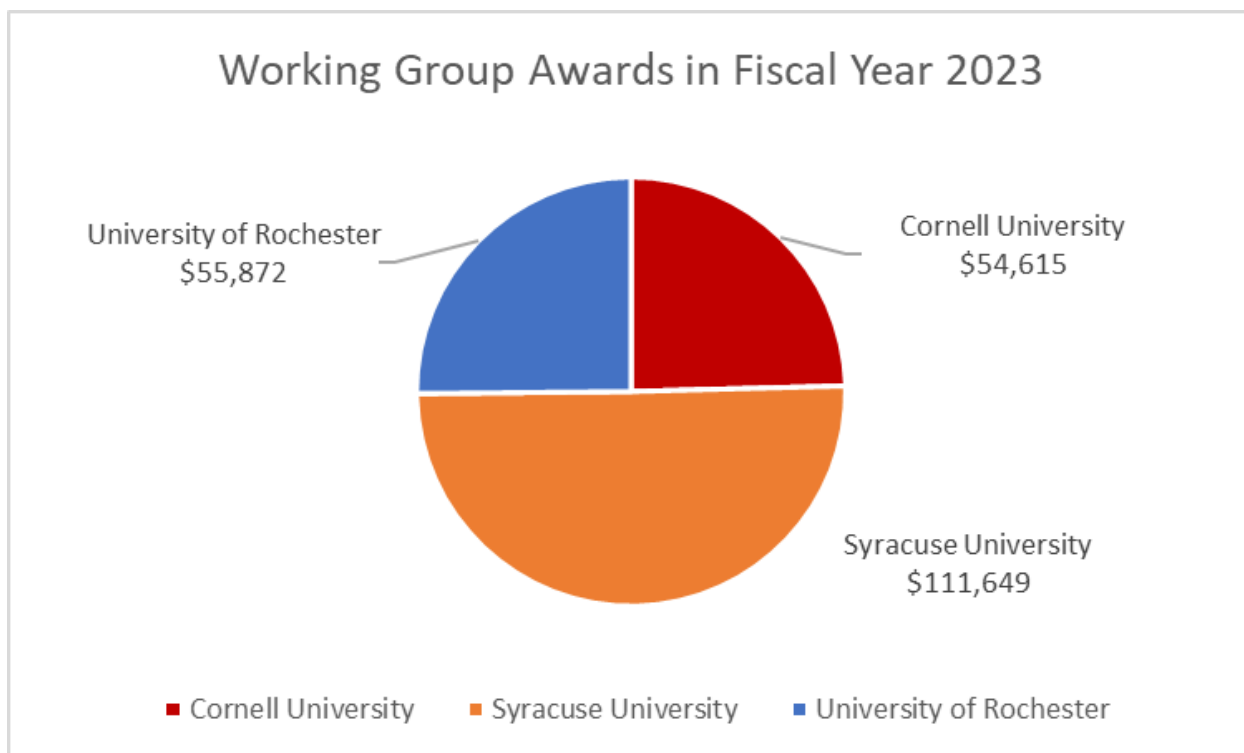
Fall 2023 marks the 15-year anniversary of the Central New York Humanities Corridor (Corridor), and the 5th year of operations on endowments at the consortium's lead institutions: Syracuse University (our administrative home), Cornell University, and University of Rochester. Corridor Directors at these three universities cultivate innovative collaborative research, teaching, and programming across all 11 Corridor institutions (the other eight are: Colgate University, Hamilton College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Le Moyne College, Rochester Institute of Technology, Skidmore College, St. Lawrence University, and Union College).

Thanks to our financial and operational support, interdisciplinary Working Groups collaborate regionally, nationally, and internationally to: advance new research; transform methods and curricula; address historical and current injustices; link theory and practice; and meaningfully connect wider communities. Notably, we foster research connections far beyond Central New York. This past year, Working Groups engaged with over 3800 individuals and collaborated with over 255 institutions and organizations across at least 35 states (including DC), 4 Canadian provinces, and 25 countries around the world. Such regional and global breadth, possible in part due to remote-format collaborations, is an important aspect of the consortium's role.

In Fiscal Year 2023 (hereafter, FY23), there were over 130 activities, including five "Signature Events" (which receive higher funding). Activities included: an early modern philosophy conference; a skills-based workshop on archival research best practices; writing workshops for military veterans; a symposium on digital ecologies; a workshop on ethics in data science; a renowned speaker on civil rights and climate justice; a deep dive into biophobia, Korean studies, and global disability studies; Indigenous performance and art; a micro-theater festival; career workshops for humanities doctoral students; humanities intersections with public policy; and numerous works-in-progress, manuscript, and writing workshops. We are proud to support a breadth of collaborations, tailored by Working Groups to meet the needs of their projects: this heterogeneity illustrates our vitality as a research consortium that fosters community engagement and brings the humanities to bear on a range of local and global concerns.

Working Groups Provide the Corridor's Foundation

Each year, the Corridor capitalizes on its biggest strength: providing mechanisms and seed funding to support purposeful research, cultural, and pedagogical projects and partnerships by Working Groups. These diverse activities enhance the region's humanities research and teaching landscape. For FY23, the Corridor awarded \$222,135 in support of 58 Working Groups organizing more than 130 activities across 10 of the 11 Corridor Institutions. Eighty-nine proposals were received in the year's Fall and Spring funding cycles, an expected uptick in proposals as the Spring 2023 CFP marked the close of twice-yearly funding cycles. We shift to a once-per-year Spring funding cycle in FY24 (as discussed later in this report).



The pie chart above shows awards granted from the Corridor’s three endowments for FY23, with the highest total, \$111,649, from the Syracuse University endowment which covers awards for activities hosted at eight Corridor institutions: Syracuse University, the schools of the New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium (NY6), and Le Moyne College. University of Rochester’s endowment covers activities hosted at University of Rochester and Rochester Institute of Technology; Cornell’s endowment simply covers Cornell-hosted awards. (The “host” campus designation identifies where funding is awarded/which campuses are primarily responsible for organizing the activities, whether an activity format is remote, hybrid, or in-person).

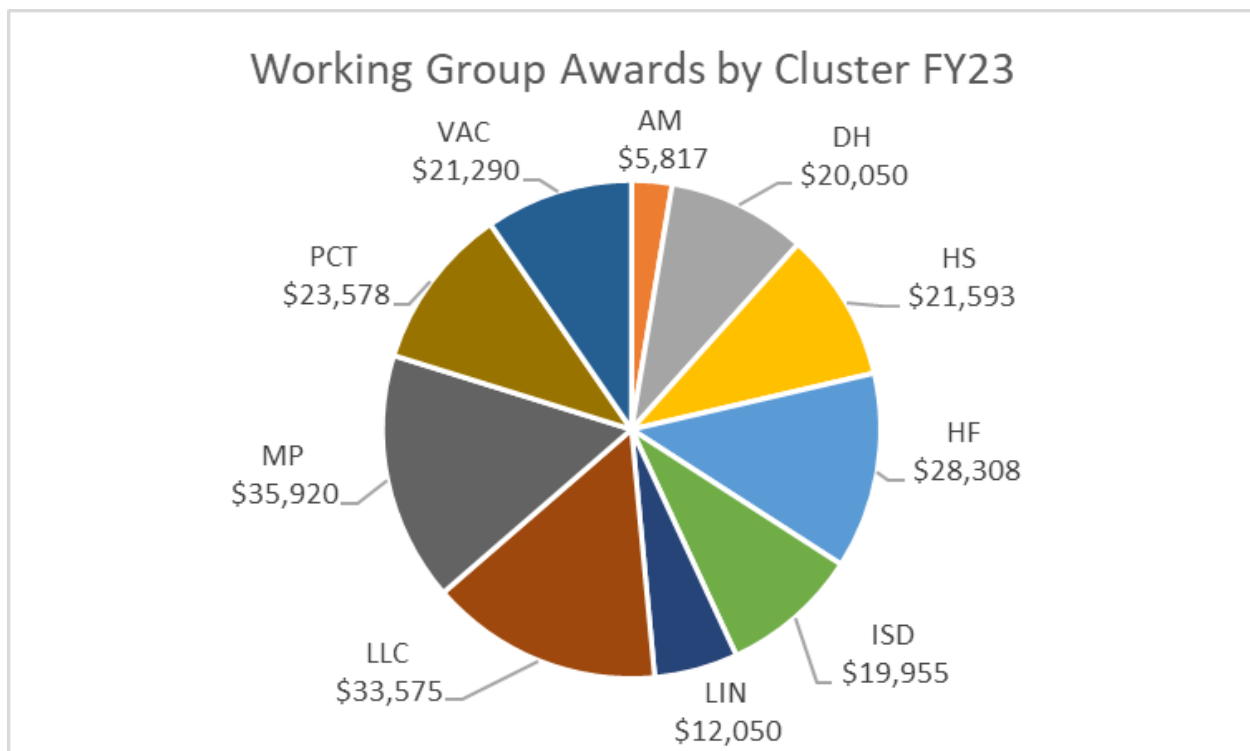
Making Strides

Interdisciplinary Research: By the Numbers, 2022-23

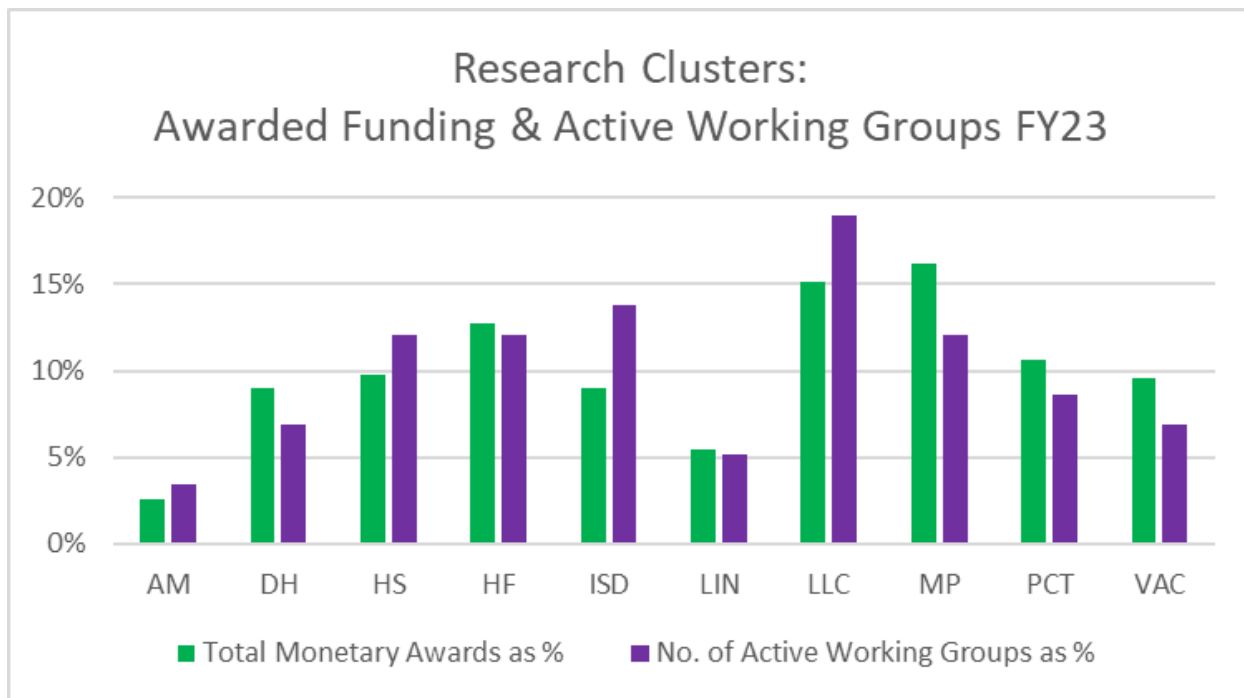
Broadly defined Research Clusters provide a comprehensive infrastructure for collaboration. Last year saw a sizable increase in Working Groups and awarded activities in Inequality & Social Difference (ISD). In 2020, in consultation with the Advisory Board, the Corridor added this cluster to highlight the consortium’s commitment to examining inequality and bridging scholarship with activism (praxis). It has taken some time to see growth, with COVID in the mix as the cluster was launched along with two other clusters, Humanities Futures (HF) and Historical Studies (HST). The following table summarizes FY23 award totals and the number of active Working Groups per Cluster:

Fiscal Year 2023 Working Group Awards by Cluster		
Research Cluster	Total Awards	Number of Active Working Groups
Archives and Media (AM)	\$5,817	2
Digital Humanities (DH)	\$20,050	4
Historical Studies (HS)	\$21,593	7
Humanities Futures (HF)	\$28,308	7
Inequality and Social Difference (ISD)	\$19,955	8
Linguistics, Semiotics, and the Study of Language (LIN)	\$12,050	3
Literature, Language, and Culture (LLC)	\$33,575	11
Musicology/Performance Studies (MP)	\$35,920	7
Philosophy/Critical Theory (PCT)	\$23,578	5
Visual Arts and Cultures (VAC)	\$21,290	4
Total	\$222,136	58

In prior years, we have noted greater disparity among clusters with the largest funding ratio granted in Literature, Language, and Culture (LLC). Continued growth in newer clusters helps balance resource allocation across research areas and renders visible a range of interdisciplinary work. The following chart, illustrating the percentages of FY23 award funding by cluster, shows a more even spread of activities and resources across clusters than historically has been the case.



While we are delighted to see this distribution, the next graph shows funds granted as a percentage compared to the number of groups receiving funds in each cluster.



More funding (green/left-side) is going to fewer groups (purple/right-side) in Digital Humanities [DH], Musicology/Performance Studies [MP], Philosophy/Critical Theory [PCT], and Visual Arts and Cultures [VAC]. In contrast, Groups in Historical Studies, Inequality and Social Difference, and Literature, Language, and Culture appear to be doing more with less funding.

While some disparity may stem from established groups' eligibility for higher funding levels, comparing these visualizations helped identify two goals: to have the full range of clusters flourish; and to regularly reflect on structural and institutional inequalities at work more broadly that the Corridor may inadvertently reinforce through policies or award processes. In short, we will try to determine whether this is a long-term pattern or simply short-term variability.

Collaborative Working Groups: Dispatches from the Field

Working Group activities, which vary by format, scale, and focus, align with our mission to: de-silo, build community, provide research support, foster mentoring opportunities for students and faculty, and create a sense of connection and accountability toward one another. The diverse examples below provide a sense of last year's contributions.

Structural Inequality and Public Engagement

Many collaborations highlight how the humanities can help solve pressing contemporary issues. FY23 Working Group activities took up several social justice topics to address inequality:

- Through public events about decarceration, prison education, and restorative justice, LLC5 Incarceration and Decarceration highlighted work by incarcerated and formerly incarcerated writers and artists. In addition to readings and roundtables, they offered a prison abolition organizing workshop, formed partnerships around housing inequality with Freedom Commons and the Center for Community Alternatives, and deepened ties with Free the People ROC, Elders and Allies, and the People's Liberation Project.
- ISD8 Cultures of Inequality in the Sinosphere explored the cultural, historical, sociological, and anthropological forms of inequality and social difference in the Chinese-speaking world to advance our critical understanding of the foundations and dynamics of such problems.
- MP3 Music Theory Examples by Women continued filling gaps in music's archives by digitizing and making accessible musical scores composed by women, and exploring and extending the presence of female composers in music theory curricula, to support and engage other scholars around the world.
- HF3 Community-Engaged Public Humanities' Environmental Storytelling Series brought together scholars, teachers, students, artists and community leaders to deepen understandings of and strengthen responses to impacts of the climate crisis on Central New York and interconnected ecosystems around the world. Corridor funding supported public presentations, issue-oriented learning guides, grassroots organizing guides, and applied workshops.
- HF6 Global Disability studies created space for Korean adoptee artists located throughout the world to revisit their NYC exhibition, expand on their art ideas, and prepare for an upcoming collaborative book project.
- ISD5 Collectively Envisioning Black Girl Futures continued to forge cross-generational networks of community activists, organizers, and artists, working with local and national organizations to highlight Black girlhood, visual artists, and writing through reading circles, memory work, dialogue, and collective healing practices.
- ISD12: Gayoghó:nq' Culture and Art in our FLX Community hosted an exhibit featuring artists of color with regional FLX connections, working with the History Center of Tompkins County, Open Spaces, Eve's Cidery, Red Byrd Cidery, and the Learning Farm along with two curatorial artists to create the inaugural event.

Student Engagement, Mentoring, and Curricular Change

Promoting engagement with undergraduate and graduate students across our 11 institutions and beyond is core to our mission. This can include in-depth interactions between students and high-profile speakers as well as skill-building opportunities, such as presenting and workshopping papers, creating public exhibits, or performing amid world-renowned conductors and composers utilizing our region's impressive range of historical musical instruments.

Our network provides cross-institutional space in which to **mentor and support graduate students**, with an eye to traditional academic career paths and beyond, whether in museums and archives, public policy, or the tech sector. Graduate students, as Working Group members or participants, benefit from attending events, mentoring peers, participating in dialogues, and receiving feedback on work-in-progress. They also regularly participate in consortium-wide research workshops and mini-retreats offered centrally by the Corridor.

- HS11 The Central New York Early Americas Consortium focused on increasing graduate student participation and mentoring the next generation of scholars in History, Geography, and Anthropology by offering an in-person workshop on Native American History. This format, they reported, better “facilitate[d] graduate student interaction with faculty from Colgate, Cornell, and SU”.
- DH11 AI and Human Values hosted two activities with graduate student mentoring at their core. The public lecture deepened knowledge of AI ethics amongst Philosophy PhD students, as this is a key area of research and employment in the field. Their intensive manuscript workshop was for new works on the ethical foundations of data science.
- HF7 Humanities Beyond the Academy held two roundtable panels for doctoral students interested in alternative career paths—one on UX tech sector careers and another on careers in consulting. Thanks to our support, graduate school staff at the endowment institutions also now share career training opportunities, expanding resources available to doctoral students than would otherwise be possible.
- HS16 Early Modern Connected Histories’ workshops convened graduate students and faculty working in Mediterranean, Indian Ocean, Atlantic, and Caribbean early modern histories: “Our workshops set a high bar and standard for intellectual engagement, professional behavior, and institutional partnering, which was especially valuable for our graduate students to develop key skills and networks.”
- LLC28 includes several graduate student members from the region, nationally, and from Germany: they held a “small forms” conference at Cornell with Humboldt University in Berlin. “A central goal was to feature graduate student research as much as professors’ work, and thus to create as much of a ‘workshop’ environment as possible, including brainstorming about teaching and pedagogical goals (“small forms” lend themselves well to the undergraduate classroom, which is important for teaching in German).”
- ISD6 Communication and Social Justice held an overnight retreat for faculty and graduate students on social justice writing methods, incorporating structured feedback for student writers and a site visit: “We hosted ... six writing sessions of about 1.5 hours each and built in time for collaboration, feedback, and community building among members. We also went on a field trip to the Harriet Tubman Historic Park in Auburn NY to learn more about her life within the Central New York area.”
- MP6 Jazz and Culture included students and faculty in a workshop on developing a series of articles on jazz and the mass media to submit to a special issue of a journal.

Undergraduates frequently participate through event attendance and class engagement. The Corridor also provides opportunities to assist in research, practice presentation or performance skills, and delve into public-facing work and community engagement. Such real-world

engagement and professional development opportunities extend beyond the classroom into experiential learning with lasting impact, allowing undergraduate students to put knowledge into practice as they prepare for their future careers. For example:

- MP26, *Banding Together: Exploring the Collegiate Wind Band as a Vehicle for Community, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*, is a music performance-based group with a punny name. They foster community among band students and facilitate student collaboration with established and emerging composers from historically marginalized populations by means of in-person and virtual composer residencies, exchange programs, and shared performances. In FY23, they also commissioned a new work by an Australian-Ukrainian woman composer: “The composer commission with Dr. Catherine Likhuta was an excellent opportunity for our students to participate in the premiere of an outstanding new work in the repertoire..., covering issues of composition, performance, and building careers as musicians.”
- AM8, *Military Veterans Stories of Belonging, Transition, and Higher Education: Bridging the Civilian-Military Divide*, held a series of dialogues tied to a photojournalism class at RIT “that offered eye-opening perspectives about individual experiences of service, transition to civilian life, and realities of higher education as non-traditional students.” Organizers reported that such meaningful engagement with ROTC and active duty military helped “directly confront misperceptions” faced by veteran students.
- LLC13’s Spanish poetry and art activities with guest artist Jorge Varas and renowned poet Aurora Luque impacted student projects in Spanish courses at both LeMoyne and Syracuse University (the poet’s and artist’s visit was also showcased on the national Spanish radio channel Cadena SER’s show, “Hoy por hoy Henares”).
- LLC24’s Small Press Reading Series enjoyed remarkable interest in print culture and poetry at their hands-on letterpress event, combining poetry readings with a broadside printing workshop at Hamilton College. The “overwhelming” interest allowed faculty, undergraduate students, and staff alike to “experiment with different forms of knowledge production. Both poets attended the workshop and printed a broadside of their poems alongside the participants. Over 100 broadsides were distributed at the poetry reading later that evening and underscored the interest in print culture and the enduring interest in the printed word.”

In addition to student mentoring, many groups attend to **mentoring early career faculty** by workshopping papers and manuscripts by untenured peers and by offering structured mentoring from more senior faculty in the consortium and from renowned external scholars invited to respond to works-in-progress. For instance, LLC21 held a feminist writing workshop for advanced graduate students as well as early career scholars of gender and sexuality, from the region and nationally, to share their work with a focus on preparing papers for publication. LLC37, Early Modern Hispanic Studies, recognizing that many in the group are the only scholars working in this area at their home institutions, fosters dialogue and the exchange of ideas and provides targeted support for those in the early stages of their careers.

Curriculum transformation is a central focus for many Groups, whether to stay abreast of cutting-edge scholarship, immerse in changing methods and shifting epistemological frames, or to pivot to the margins, so as to unpack questions of power and raise awareness about marginalized scholars or lesser-known works in one's field(s).

- HS3 Urban Humanities' work on decolonizing architecture, unpacking how race and architecture intersect and analyzing international aid packages, forged essential interactions among regional and national scholars and engaged students in Ruth Lo's seminar at Hamilton College, who delved into how the built environment can advance violence. HS3 activities sparked a new faculty collaboration, focused on fascist architecture, that received additional funding from Hamilton.
- MP18 Improvisation in Theory and Practice focused on curriculum transformation, DEIA knowledge in the field, and providing musical improvisation experiences for student performers: "Our aim was to offer meaningful improvisation activities for our students and to embrace DEI in our programming. We hosted two successful workshops centered on the rich improvisation tradition in the Historically Black Church. Alcee Chriss, professor of organ at Wesleyan University, gave an online workshop in October 2023 and gave an in person masterclass on the Syracuse campus in November 2023." MP18 recorded their masterclass for others to use, to diversify curricular content.
- HF2 Cultures and Languages Across the Curriculum (CLAC) brings together instructors, program coordinators, and others working on language curriculum. They've recently established an inter-institutional learning community to share information and resources and to learn together and from each other on internationalizing language learning curriculum and programming. In a very short time, this group has helped create a regional and national network around cross-cultural language acquisition.
- MP3 Music Theory Examples by Women, working in collaboration with [Fourscoreandmore.org](https://fourscoreandmore.org), founded by Mark Gotham (external member), aims to democratize access to music theory and scores by women with free access to digital-age resources for teachers and students. To further their mission, they organized four events: (1) Scores and Analysis: Encoding and Management; (2) Colloquium Talk: Public Music Theory and Fourscoreandmore; (3) Analysis-a-Thon; and (4) and an "Un-Conference" focused on a Ukrainian woman composer, Stefania Turkewich (1898-1977), titled "Music as Politics and Global/Cultural Exchange".
- HF3 Community Engaged Public Humanities, in partnership with SUNY-ESF, produced two learning guides, one on environmental storytelling and another on direct action youth organizing, to offer ways to build from George Lakey's public lecture and workshop. HF3's focus in producing these guides is the broader community, including youth, as knowers and learners, not just scholars and students in university settings.

Of course, the different impacts delineated in this section, whether student and faculty mentoring and advancing research or raising awareness of non-canonical scholarship, key to curriculum transformation, are often interwoven. For instance, consider PCT3's discussion of their early modern philosophy colloquium, where graduate and advanced undergraduate students from Corridor institutions provided commentary on the paper presentations. Their

format intentionally fostered in-depth discussions of each presenter's research, a model that “generally goes a long way toward progress on articles, and at least two of us were able to finish articles in the months following the conference thanks in large part to insights gained during discussion. ...[Also,] many of us learned about non-canonical philosophical figures that we seldom have the opportunity to learn about, specifically, Margaret Cavendish, Emilie du Chatelet, Wang Dayu, Ottoba Cugoana, and Mary Shepherd.... This knowledge is extremely valuable for our efforts to diversify our syllabi for courses on early modern philosophy.”

Scholarly Momentum, Innovation, and Impact

Working Group collaborations lead to a variety of short- and long-term scholarly outcomes, reflecting the synergistic effect of Corridor support and networks. The ripple effects of our funding include publications, inter-institutional learning communities, external grants and fellowships, archive-building, newly commissioned musical scores, and much more. The summaries below give but a glimpse as to how Corridor collaborations are generative in terms of traditional scholarly outcomes as well as other types of impact, such as community engagement or student mentoring, discussed in other portions of this report.

Scholarly works published and submitted for publication reported in FY23

- HS4 Late Antiquity, which explores ancient literary texts using intersectional frameworks drawn from contemporary work in gender, queer, sexuality, race, new materialism, and environmental studies, reported several books published thanks to Corridor support:
 - Georgia Frank's *Unfinished Christians: Ritual Objects and Silent Subjects in Late Antiquity* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023);
 - Virginia Burrus's *Earthquakes and Gardens: Saint Hilarion's Cyprus* (University of Chicago Press, 2023);
 - Kim Haines-Eitzen's *Sonorous Desert: What Deep Listening Taught Early Christian Monks-and What It Can Teach Us* (Princeton University Press, 2022).
- MP4 Practice-Based Performance Studies held two intensive mini-retreats focused on advancing works in progress into publishable pieces. In addition to progress on book proposals, chapter development, and translation work for performance, MP4 reported:
 - Amanda Winkler's chapter on sonic violence in *The Duchess of Malfi* will be published in a Routledge collection, *Echoes of Violence*.
 - Osvaldo Sandoval-Leon's "Cineturgia: la escena cóncava y desfigurada en Luces de bohemia de Ramón del Valle- Inclán" was accepted for a volume on film and theater.
 - Stephanie Shirilan submitted "Shakespeare's Airchives" for a *Shakespeare Bulletin* issue on archives and memory.
- Thanks to their online collaborative sessions discussing their works in progress across disciplines, all organizers in VAC33 Nation Unsettled: New Explorations in Venezuelan Cinema advanced their scholarship: One submitted an article in a peer reviewed journal on Latin American and Latinx Visual culture; a second finished the introduction of her second book and a conference talk on the film *Pelo malo*, and the third had an article published in a highly prestigious, peer reviewed journal. In addition, each “made

significant progress toward our second book[s], which we will surely be workshopping with each other in the near future.”

- VAC1 Topics in Architectural History reports an edited volume in the works, following on their signature event. Tentatively titled *The Architecture and Property Project*, to be co-edited by Claire Zimmerman (Michigan), Lisa Haber-Thomson (Harvard), and Corridor Co-Director Peter Christensen (University of Rochester), it will offer a global, transhistorical assessment of legal theories of property in architecture.
- LLC5 Incarceration and Decarceration’s programming focused this year, in part, on the power of literary arts and education to promote healing and reflection: this also tied to the 2023 launch of the [new MEND journal](#), an annual publication which “celebrates the lives and creative work of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people as well as individuals who have been impacted by the criminal justice system.”
- MP3 Music Theory Examples by Women note that their [open-access anthology](#), published with Mark Gotham (external group member) now includes more topics and has enhanced usability: it offers, “in addition to lists and links to scores online, options for direct score download in multiple formats and extracted PDF score images for the excerpts in question.” They also note that work on the data set received first-round acceptance for publication in a technical journal [TISMIR](#).
- As mentioned briefly above, MP26 Banding Together reported that “The [Corridor] grant collaboration resulted in the commissioning of a new work for brass ensemble and solo viola, *A Place That Is Yours* by Dr. Catherine Likhuta. ... The work was given its world premiere by the Cornell University Wind Ensemble, Dr. James Spinazzola, conductor, in Fall 2022, with a subsequent performance by the Syracuse University Wind Ensemble, Dr. Bradley Ethington, conductor, in Spring 2023. The work is dedicated to Dr. Steven Stucky, longtime member of the composition faculty at Ithaca College.”

Grants and Fellowships noted in FY23

- ISD10 Critical South Asian Feminists noted, thanks to the group’s collaborations, one member won a Lender Center Faculty Fellowship at Syracuse University, focused on Islamophobia and the Media.
- In addition to fostering engagement with Sony Coráñez Bolton and their new book, *Crip Colony: Mestizaje, US Imperialism, and the Queer Politics of Disability in the Philippines*, HF6 Global Disability Studies reported that Corridor funds helped them win a grant from the Association of Asian Studies Northeast Council for their biophobia symposium .
- AM7 Measuring the Cost of Museum Collections will pursue IMLS grant funding, to add to support provided by the Corridor. They also integrated professionals from 7 non-corridor museums of different scales, creating a richer, broader partnership.
- Organizers in DH10: Reconstruction, Structural Analysis, and Conservation of Ancient Monuments presently hold external grants tied to the group’s work (NEH Archaeology award and Digital Humanities awards), showing synergy between Corridor seed funding and pursuit of external grants. In addition to hosting public talks and exploring a future digital field school, DH10 is focused on some upcoming archaeological excavations at English Fort Kormantine, Ghana (founded 1631).

- HF9: Humanities Engagement with Public Policy, built a new international partnership and plans to pursue external funding at the national level, to expand their projects.
- ISD8 Cultures of Inequality in the Sinosphere's collaborations will strengthen Cornell's application for a major grant from Taiwan's National Science and Technology Council.

Archive-Building in FY23

- To make musical scores accessible to students and teachers, MP3 continued to refine their open access archival data, making many "technical improvements to the [central repository](#), which hosts the data, in terms of clarity, removing bloat, and interoperability. A growing number of external projects make use of this data and code."
- LLC12 Lake Erie Latin American Cultural Studies (LELACS) started a regional bilingual (Spanish/English) testimonio archive, to help document and understand Latinx communities and cultures, particularly "traveling communities" in CNY. They wanted to "form a common archive as a body to reinforce our tools for identity and community memory. Coming from diverse ethnic and national backgrounds reminded us as well [about] the linguistic diversity where we come from. We are aware that our commitment has to go farther than the realities involving English and Spanish."

Prioritizing Breadth & Inclusivity

The Corridor fosters research connections far beyond the geographical boundaries of Central New York, and many Groups build out robust international networks and research collaborations as part of their regional efforts. In FY23 Working Groups engaged with over 3,800 individuals and collaborated with over 255 institutions and organizations across at least 35 states (including DC), 4 Canadian provinces, and 25 countries around the world. For instance:

- PCT17 Genealogy in the Humanities held author meets reader sessions with scholars in France and Germany, expanding their network to showcase the work of Frieder Vogelmann, University of Freiburg, and Eraldo Souza dos Santos, from the Sorbonne.
- PCT11 Theorizing Italy hosted an international colloquium on environmental crises and geophilosophy, with work by Caterina Resta (University of Messina, Italy) circulated in advance and formal responses from scholars at two US universities outside the Corridor. They enjoyed interdisciplinary participation from scholars from around the world.
- HF2 Cultures and Languages across the Curriculum (CLAC) deepened their inter-institutional learning community with an eye to regional curricular impact but also hosted an international online conference, with speakers from Florence, Italy, Shanghai China, Otago, New Zealand, Toronto, Canada, and Quito, Ecuador, plus presentations from the UN Food and Agriculture organization and the Forum on Education Abroad.
- *Small Forms: Aesthetics—Media—Modernity*, an international research colloquium hosted at Cornell by LLC28 Reimagining the Discipline: German Studies, the Humanities, and the University, was organized in partnership with Humboldt University, Berlin.

Figure 1: Map of Countries with Corridor Interaction

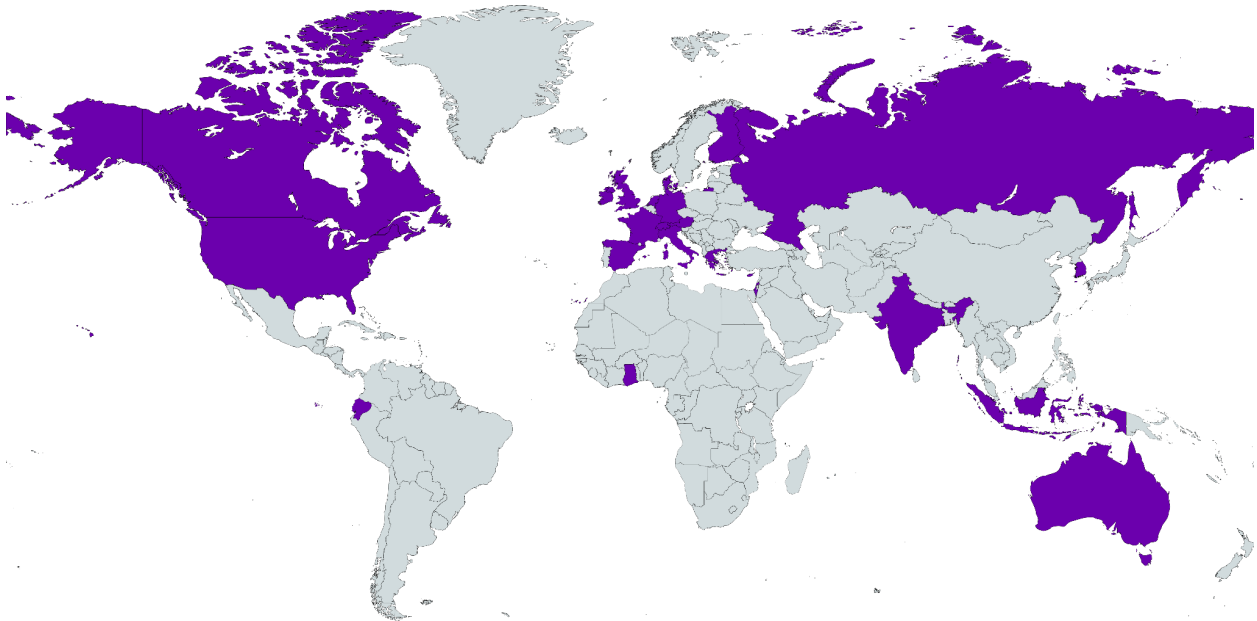
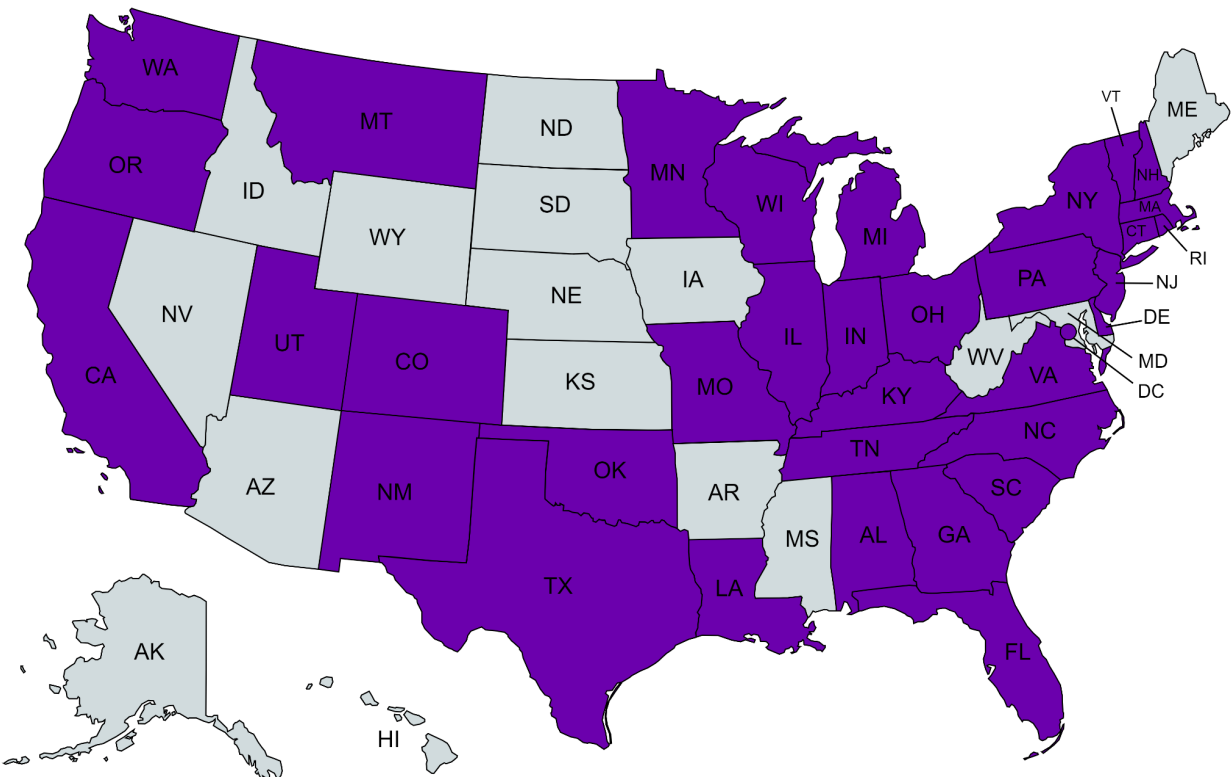


Figure 2: Map of States with Corridor Interaction



At the same time, FY23's return to more in-person activities meant award budgets did not extend as far as they had with remote-format activities. We saw definite excitement from

Working Groups about gathering in person over meals and enjoying the serendipitous conversations that can happen when in the same space. However, in-person activities have higher expenses for travel, lodging, and meals, and three years of consumer inflation cut into award budgets. As such, FY23's breadth levels, in terms of national and international engagement, show a slight dip from FY22 even as the Corridor continues to grow.

If in-person activities remain Working Groups' strong preferences, we may continue to see an increase in local and regional connections but lose some international reach due to budget constraints and the increased vagaries of overseas travel. The Corridor recognizes that fluctuations are natural since groups propose different scales of work each year. FY23 annual report data from Working Groups was more sparse than in prior years, so we suspect that our tally of engagement across states and countries is somewhat under-counted. These relatively new data points, which we began to track in FY21, will continue to be evaluated, as will the best methods of compiling this information and soliciting more robust working group reports.

Bolstering Faculty with Writing Retreats

October 2022 marked the second successful writing retreat at Syracuse University's Minnowbrook Conference Center in Blue Mountain Lake, NY. The retreat, open to tenure-line faculty from any Corridor campus by application, is part of a broad effort by the Directors to expand our consortium-wide research-support offerings, enhance scholarly community, and diversify pathways to participation in the Corridor. The immediate outpouring of gratitude from our Fall 2022 cohort prompted a [news story featuring some of the attendees' experiences](#).

For the Fall 2022 writing retreat, we received 70 applications (14 from previous applicants): 30% identified as BIPOC, 13% as LGBTQ+, 17% as first generation college graduates, 83% as women, 64% as heavily-burdened in administrative service roles, 62% as tenured and 37% as untenured. Each award cycle has seen some "melt" in the awarded cohorts, due to unforeseen conflicts with the retreat dates, changes in life circumstances making attendance infeasible, or attrition due to last-minute illness (mostly COVID).

- 33 applicants were admitted with 3 more admitted off the waitlist, as some awardees withdrew due to unforeseen conflicts. Of the 36 admitted: 28% identified as BIPOC, 17% LGBTQ+, 22% first generation college graduates, 72% women, 67% heavily-burdened in administrative service roles, 67% tenured, and 33% as untenured.
- The Fall 2022 cohort was comprised of 30 individuals, with a final roster of 28 due to some last-minute attrition caused by COVID. The cohort identified as 27% BIPOC, 17% LGBTQ+, 27% first generation, 67% women, 67% in heavy service roles, 71% tenured, and 29% as untenured.

Given the success of the Fall 2021 retreat, we followed the same general plan, with Jennifer Ahern-Dodson (Duke University) and Monique Dufour (Virginia Tech) co-facilitating remotely on Zoom. They offered guided writing sessions, one-on-one consultations, and workshops addressing how to navigate difficult writing stages, overcome writer's block, and cultivate

diverse readers for one's work. In response to Fall 2021 participant feedback, with some writers seeking more flexibility, required sessions "for all" were pared back, with participants able to select from structured and semi-structured offerings throughout the weekend.

An in-person retreat with remote facilitators has proven highly effective, as it allows faculty to work across the property while coming together online for workshops and outdoors at social hours to connect. Optional individual consultations with facilitators were deemed by one attendee as "super productive." Overall, the cohort thrived. In a post-retreat survey, attendees expressed sentiments of reconnection, affirmation, restoration, fulfillment, and morale-boosting. Many conveyed gratitude: one "found time [they] needed to pause and to calibrate," while another found it "a great opportunity to reconnect with my research and meet colleagues from other institutions (already envisioning ways to collaborate in the future)."

Valuing the ability to form connections was woven throughout responses: "I appreciated the chance both to meet new people AND connect with faculty from my institution with whom I don't already have a close friendship. I think we established a bond this weekend that will last." Shared experiences were equally integral: one participant valued "the camaraderie of having others also working, also struggling, also sharing what they are working both on and through things." Another was "inspired by...seeing so many scholars so hard at work." We hope to see the benefits of this cohort model for years to come, as "these are great initiatives that also strengthen the work of working groups." Minnowbrook itself proved key for some, as "being away from home was fundamental to the magic!" Others "gained insight into both [their] project and process" and had "a burst of momentum with [their] writing. A boost of morale!"

Since this retreat clearly provides faculty with intensive opportunities to reinvigorate scholarly momentum, navigate writing obstacles, create lasting connections, and benefit from new ways to immerse in the consortium's supportive community, we have committed to supporting it for the next few years, though not without some debate. In December 2022, the Advisory Board had a substantive discussion around the tenure-line faculty requirement, as the Corridor tries to balance what is an incredibly high-demand opportunity with a finite number of available spaces. The Directors made the difficult decision to continue, for the time being, limiting this particular opportunity to tenure-line faculty, who *must* publish to retain their positions and advance in their careers, especially since many have found their research momentum decimated by COVID (to further exacerbate this situation, publishing timelines have become even more drawn out, with shortages of paper, production staff, and more impacting scholarly articles and books). We have received requests to expand the writing retreat or offer a similar opportunity to graduate students, academic staff, contingent faculty, teaching faculty, and postdocs, and this issue will continue to be analyzed and discussed among Corridor leadership.

Importantly, all other Corridor opportunities, including the hundreds of thousands of dollars awarded each year to Working Groups, discussed throughout this report, as well as our other centrally-organized research support opportunities, summarized in the next section, are open to all faculty, academic staff and graduate students in the consortium.

Professional Development for Graduate Students, Faculty, and Staff

To augment our scholarly support mechanisms, the Corridor offers consortium-wide research and writing events via the HF4 Corridor Futures & Initiatives group. Our goal is to create multiple points of engagement through publishing and writing workshops and to offer different pathways to participation beyond Working Group formation (as this can prove a high bar for some as a point of entry). With the exception of the Minnowbrook retreat, all offerings are open to the entire Corridor community of faculty, graduate students, and academic staff and reflect our evolution to be more responsive to meet people's needs.

In addition to hosting the Minnowbrook retreat, HF4 offered three consortium-wide workshops, widely publicized with open registration. In October 2022, Inkwell Writing Retreats' Michelle Boyd held an online writing retreat, *Unstuck: Become the Writer You Already Are*. In December 2022, in conjunction with Syracuse University's Office of Research, we hosted Laura Portwood Stacer for two publishing workshops. The first, *Land a Publisher for your Scholarly Book*, introduced scholars to academic book publishing, focused on key questions that new and experienced authors should ask, and provided tips about how to find the right press for one's current project, connect with editors, identify the ideal time to submit a proposal, and how to navigate multiple submissions. The second, *Write an Outstanding Book Proposal*, focused on core components of academic book proposals, highlighted common mistakes made by first-time and experienced authors, and offered tips about how to make one's proposal stand out in a sea of submissions. These online sessions garnered 160 registrations and 133 attendees and demonstrated a real thirst for publi-related workshops.

Making Things Go: Operations and Personnel

The Syracuse University Humanities Center 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 priorities, identify areas for improvement, and review policy to ensure our long-term success. As the Corridor continues to grow, we aim to streamline processes, suggest best practices across our participating campuses, and improve our ability to track progress, awards, outcomes, and impacts.

New Leadership and Staff Transitions

In July 2022, the Corridor welcomed Peter Christensen, an internationally recognized scholar of architectural history and design, as the new Ani and Mark Gabrellian Director of the University of Rochester's Humanities Center. In this new role, Christensen served his first year as a Co-Director of the Corridor. Vivian May continues to serve as the lead Director at Syracuse University and Paul Fleming as the Co-Director from Cornell University. This leadership trio provides strategic direction and decision-making for the Corridor.

The Program Manager position had two transitions in FY23, as Katie Walpole left the role in August 2022 for a non-profit organization. The position was vacant for a few months until Heather Carroll was hired for a brief stint between October 2022 and January 2023 before switching to a role in advancement with Syracuse University's College of Engineering. During these vacancies, the Syracuse University Humanities Center Director and staff valiantly kept the Corridor afloat. In March 2023, after a successful recruitment, the Corridor was able to rehire Aimee Germain to return to the Corridor, to serve as Program Manager (a position she had previously held for four years from 2017-21). We anticipate that the institutional memory, leadership, and operational consistency Aimee provides will be an impetus for continued growth and streamlining of Corridor operations and programming.

Our Advisory Board's Pivotal Role

The [Advisory Board](#) plays a key consultative role in our structure and operations. At the annual meeting, Board members receive reports on the previous year's activities, programs, and budgets, learn about trends, and share ideas around the table. They also provide input on programmatic initiatives and budgetary and policy issues. We are grateful for their valuable insights: Board members bring hands-on experience to the table, share perspectives from different fields and types of institutions, and help us to refine operations.

As the lead endowment institutions, Syracuse University, Cornell University, and the University of Rochester are represented by the Directors of their respective humanities centers [who are also co-Directors of the Corridor] 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.

The Board began meeting online during the pandemic and we have continued this approach due to higher participation rates from our geographically dispersed campuses. The December 2022 meeting, with the full board in attendance, allowed for a free-form discussion about the Corridor's many assets, some operational issues and debates, and some new challenges.

First, we discussed increasing pressures and scarcity facing the humanities—and the benefits of having secure endowed funding for humanities collaborations at this time. We noted the value of Corridor-wide research workshops and the positives of building learning communities beyond our home campuses. NY6 colleagues underscored how the Corridor provides balance to the research and scholarship side of their primarily teaching-prioritized small liberal arts colleges and allows NY6 scholars to engage with and mentor graduate students at other schools.

Turning to Working Group activities, at the heart of the Corridor's annual operations, the Board discussed keeping remote format collaborations in the mix as we emerge from COVID, balancing the ease, frequency, greener impact, and greater international reach afforded by

online engagement with the value of in-person meet-ups which can spark informal interactions and serendipitous ties among colleagues. The group debated pros and cons of supporting one-off Working Group events (particularly event fatigue vs. the value of tangible in-person connections) and how to better facilitate shareable outputs and outcomes (e.g., topical reading lists, teaching guides, newly digitized archival materials, recordings, and publications). Raising awareness (and soliciting clear information from Working Groups) about outcomes remains challenging.

Several members mentioned that Working Groups would like, at times, to formally cross-collaborate and seek shared awards for specific projects (but not permanently merge their groups). Our operative and funding mechanisms would need some tailoring to support this and we continue to think through this issue. As noted above, the Board debated the Minnowbrook writing retreat policy of including only tenure line faculty for those limited 30+ slots while providing regular additional opportunities each year, open to *all*, including faculty not on the tenure track. We also reviewed Corridor policies, timelines, and deadlines, and sought input on some budgetary improvements, which we've now implemented as outlined in the next section.

Fiscal Responsibility

The Corridor lives and breathes collaboration, whether via Working Group projects or our 3-endowment shared fiscal structure, a “behind-the scenes” distillation of the consortium’s cross-institutional ethos. With this unusual shared governance system comes shared responsibility for sound fiscal management and budget planning. Information-sharing and budgetary transparency are vital to our long-term success, as is aligning Corridor operations and budgets with our mission. We routinely monitor our policies and implement changes when needed: below, we outline this past year’s efforts toward continued fiscal responsibility.

Coping with Inflation

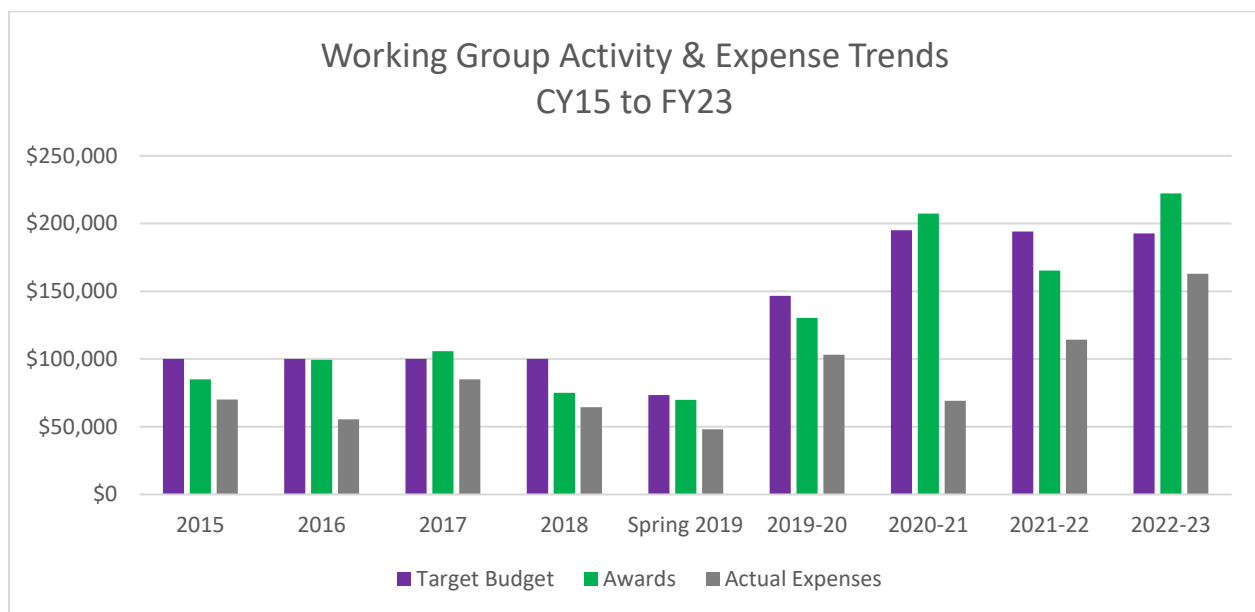
As inflation spiked and costs for event-related expenses increased, Working Groups were forced to adjust rapidly in FY23. Our target budget allocations, for granting Working Group awards from each endowment, have remained steady in recent years with modest yearly increases: long-term projections for all three endowment campuses proactively build in a 2.5-3% annual increase, but inflation has begun to outpace these projections. The Directors responded by increasing Working Group funding caps, starting in Spring 2022 and again in Spring 2023. This table reflects FY23 target allocations for award funding, on the left, with awards granted from each endowment on the right.

Working Group Award Budget Targets vs. Awards Granted for Fiscal Year 2023		
Corridor Endowments	Working Group Award Budget Targets	2022-23 Awards
Syracuse University, New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium, and Le Moyne College	\$97,401	\$111,649
Cornell University	\$45,839	\$54,615
University of Rochester and Rochester Institute of Technology	\$59,430	\$55,872

After the uncertainty of living with COVID in the prior two years, FY23 saw a rebound in enthusiasm for a greater number of collaborative activities, reflected in our increased award levels. In addition, the Directors took some calculated risk by granting awards from the Syracuse University and Cornell University endowments that, in total, exceeded our target funding allocations for those two endowments. We remain attentive to cost increases and will respond to inflationary pressures as needed.

Responding to Underspend on Working Group Awards

Working Groups underspend by a relatively consistent percentage each year, illustrated below. Some cancel activities for various reasons, others spend most, but not all, of their awards. Our 2022-23 data shows progress toward reducing the gap between award targets and actual expenses. But these data trends still suggest that underspend must continue to be factored into annual target award considerations.



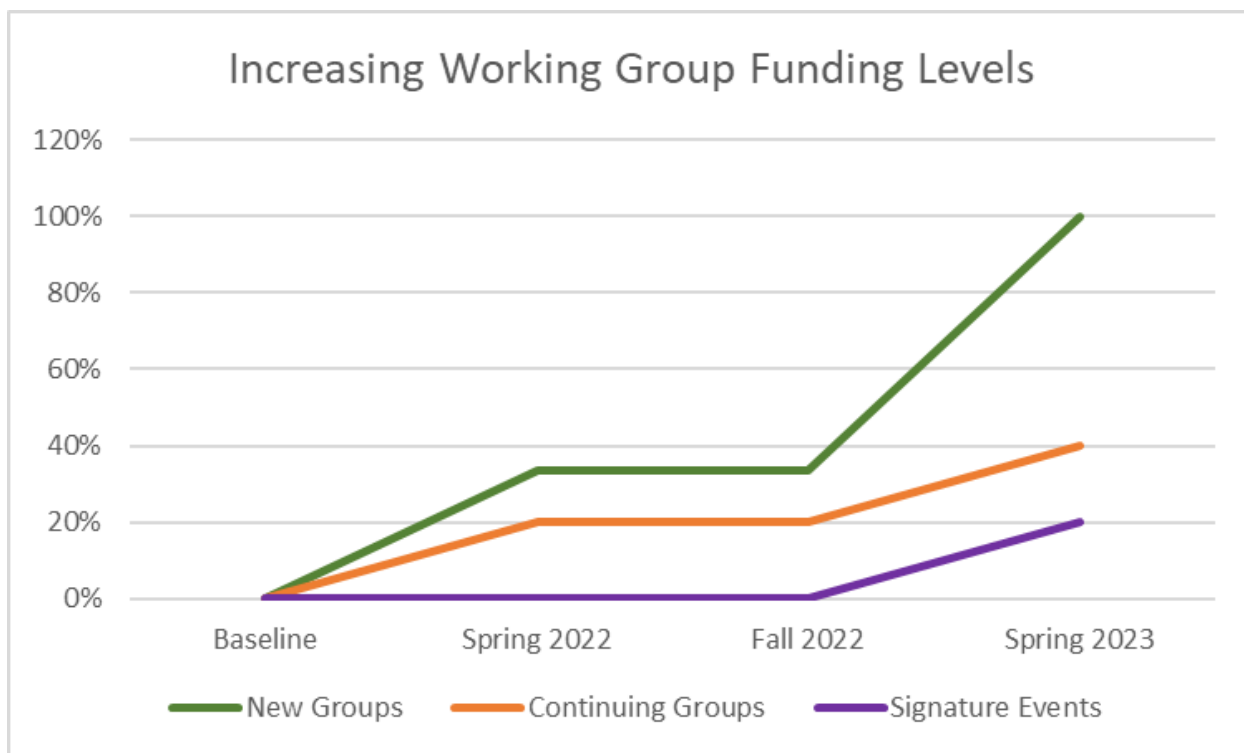
In addition to monitoring gaps between awarded funding vs. actual expenses overall (green bars/awarded funds vs. grey bars/funds expended), in FY23 we implemented a more granular

approach to estimating anticipated underspend for each endowment, as patterns vary by campus. We did so to support the Directors' proposal review and Working Group funding award decisions. Similar to how undergraduate admissions estimates student yield in their student acceptance rates, the Corridor can make an educated guess as to how much Groups may underspend in any given year, to maximize our funding capacity and allow for some calculated risk (such as awarding funding above our target allocations).

In consultation with our Advisory Board, the Directors have approached underspending as an opportunity for innovation. We will monitor this issue and revisit it as needed. The next sections elaborate on recent financial and operational improvements.

Increasing Working Group Funding

Since the COVID era disrupted most everything, Working Group annual award caps are now routinely reviewed to maximize our resources and respond to inflation. To better meet the needs of scholars, and fast on the heels of our first award funding increase in many years, in Spring 2022, in Spring 2023, the Directors decided to again increase award funding levels across all Working Group categories and to add some flexibility within the annual funding cap.



As of the Spring 2023 funding cycle [for 2023-24 awards], and as shown in the chart above, the Directors have leveraged underspend to further support Working Group needs:

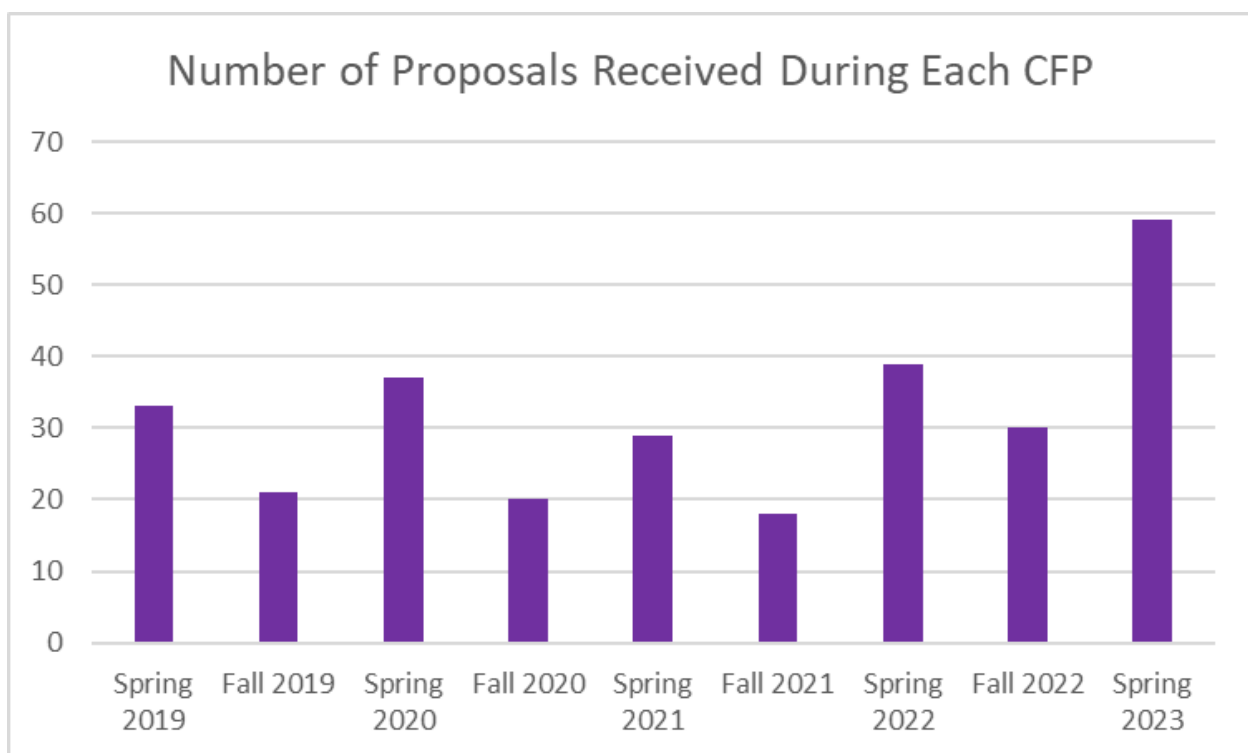
- New Groups are eligible for up to \$3,000 per year, an increase from \$2,000, first offered in Spring 2022, and a 100% increase over the original cap of \$1,500 for new groups.

- Continuing Groups can apply for up to \$7,000 per year, and now have some flexibility within that cap, for up to \$4,000 per award. This represents an increase from \$6,000 per year and \$3,000 per award, first enacted in Spring 2022 for FY23 activities, and a 40% increase overall, in comparison to the original caps of \$5,000 per year and \$2,500 per award, respectively, in years prior, for continuing groups.
- Signature Event awards are now up to \$12,000, representing a 20% increase from the original \$10,000 since this format was created.

In addition to raising award funding levels, we remain committed to offering additional funding, when needed, to support accessibility accommodations and inclusive format programming. These funds, granted above and beyond baseline Working Group award caps, put in place some equity for groups requiring accessibility funding support to pursue their projects.

Shifting to a Once-Per-Year Funding Cycle

To best support increased Working Group award caps, the Directors reached consensus in Spring 2023 that shifting back to once-yearly Spring funding cycles, to begin in FY24, was pivotal. This will allow the Corridor to make all award decisions at one time with a full budget picture for the upcoming year at hand. With the twice-yearly cycle, we received fewer proposals in fall (visible in the graph below) and there was always the unknown of how many additional proposals we'd receive from the fall cycle for spring activities. The additional proposal period created uncertainty in budget planning and involved significant staff time (for a smaller pool of proposals) amidst the new fall writing retreat and its resulting larger-scale event management.



Fall 2022 / Spring 2023 marked the conclusion of our twice-yearly proposal cycles. We received a notable increase in our Spring 2023 proposals, since the next funding cycle will launch in Spring 2024 for academic year 2024-2025 Working Group activities.

Cost-Sharing Between Endowments

New cost-share mechanisms among the three Corridor endowment institutions enacted in FY22 have deepened our fiscal collaboration and created a shared pool of research support funding greater than any one endowment alone could sustain. This infrastructure enables us to enhance research community and support scholars' needs across field, rank, and institutional setting via consortium-wide writing workshops, publishing and grant workshops, the Minnowbrook retreat, and more. We are delighted that the wildly popular annual writing retreat and additional research workshops provide a means for humanists to connect from across the consortium via professional development opportunities as well as working group collaborations.

Given all the ways that careful examination of the numbers can allow for innovation and enhance the Corridor's role as a research consortium, we will continue to monitor under-spend as well as the impact of increased award levels, accessibility funding, and consortium-wide research support opportunities.

Website Redevelopment

We launched the new Corridor website in Fall 2021, to provide a more user-friendly, searchable, and accessible interface. Due to Corridor staff vacancies, some additional improvements have been delayed. Nonetheless, the new site's calendar features, working group details, and Organizer photos are a huge improvement. We look forward to reviewing feedback and recommendations on site improvements, as we continue to work with the Cleveland-based firm CodeRed as our web developer on a Django-based Wagtail platform. In the 2023-24 academic year, we hope to add additional functionality, improved forms, additional graphics, and a more streamlined Resources interface for Corridor users.

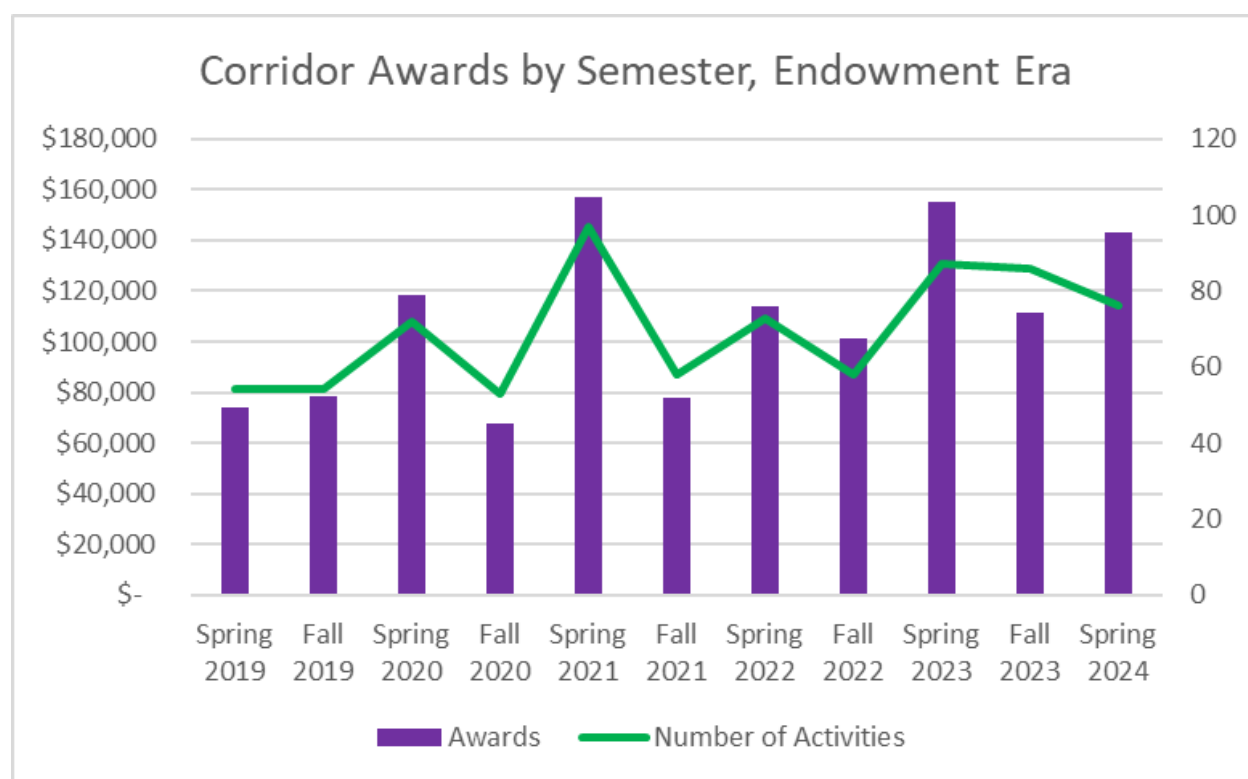
Evaluating Our Programs and Operations

The Corridor maintains several mechanisms to regularly solicit feedback from stakeholders: all feedback, whether from email correspondence with the Program Manager, annual reports, or occasional surveys, is kept anonymously and used to advance our mission. In exchange for Corridor funding, Working Groups must report on their activities each year: these reports help us identify opportunities for innovation and improvement and provide insights about the impacts of our funding and core efforts. The annual report form also invites Group input (to be shared anonymously with the Corridor Directors, staff, and Advisory Board) which we evaluate, discuss, and respond to.

In the upcoming academic year, we aim to improve our data collection by revising our annual report form to include more focused questions with better prompts for Working Group Organizers. Comprehensive feedback is also gathered from the Minnowbrook Writing Retreat attendees, integral to planning future retreats and continuing to evaluate this newer annual endeavor. As noted above, the Advisory Board also provides vital feedback at our annual meeting and, individually, throughout the year via email.

Looking Back, Moving Forward: A Five-Year Snapshot

The Corridor officially shifted from operating on grant funding to operating on its three endowments in Spring 2019, in the middle of the 2018-19 academic year. Considering calendar years, the Corridor will celebrate its 5th anniversary of endowment operations in Fall 2023. Below, we offer a snapshot of Corridor awards granted in the endowment period to support our scholarly community of humanities faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, academic staff, and broader regional, national, and international communities. Over the past 5.5 years (including this upcoming academic year), the Corridor has awarded \$1,197,756 in funding supporting 768 activities across the region.



The Spring 2021 increase can largely be attributed to a one-off circumstance: \$68,000 in COVID-impacted Fall 2020 awards were postponed into Spring 2021 (with the hope that COVID's pressure would ease and in-person activities could return, which did not pan out). The more recent spike in Spring 2023, however, shows a true point of optimism and growth for the

Corridor: as our community learns to live with COVID, and pivot when necessary to modify plans or accommodate shifting circumstances, scholars have shown renewed enthusiasm for collaborating with their colleagues across the region and beyond.

As we look to our future, we can say with confidence that the Corridor is well-situated and poised for continued growth and innovation. 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 November 13, 2023, by:

Vivian M. May, Ph.D.
CNY Humanities Corridor Director
Director, Humanities Center
Professor, Women's & Gender Studies
Syracuse University

Aimee Germain
Program Manager, CNY Humanities Corridor
Syracuse University