Request for Proposals: South Atlantic Humanities Center
Open to Virginia Tech Faculty Only

Application deadline: March 24, 2006
Funding period: July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007

RFP 📄

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Introduction

The South Atlantic Humanities Center (SAHC) is supported by endowments at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, the University of Virginia College of Arts and Sciences, and the Virginia Tech College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. SAHC seeks proposals from Virginia Tech faculty, and only VT faculty, of all ranks that will advance the mission of the Center. Faculty may, however, apply for partial support for graduate students whose theses or dissertations they are supervising.

Criteria

Awards ranging from $1,000-$10,000 will be given for projects addressing the following criteria:

- Projects must advance the Center's mission of using the humanities to further scholarly and public understanding of the history, culture, and potential of the South Atlantic region. Included in this region are Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since the state and territorial boundaries do not form a wall around these lands, SAHC is open to projects that include neighboring areas in comparative or connective ways. Projects of interest to the Center include humanities scholarship, public programming, curricular development (undergraduate and graduate) of South Atlantic Studies, and digital projects that advance these themes. Further information about the Center and its goals can be found at its Website, www.southatlanticcenter.org or by contacting the SAHC Program Director, Dr. Pablo Davis.

- Projects are encouraged, but not required, to address the Center's current focus on itineraries, in terms of the movement and circulation of people, goods, and cultural patterns across time and space. The conceptual underpinning of this theme has to do with a dynamic and connective, rather than static, view of region in other words, a conception of region in terms of the ways in which humans rearrange, and create connections among, themselves, their things, and their environment. Itineraries may include such topics as migration in its many forms--transitory, circular, official or undocumented, or permanent;

resettlement; transportation; cultural, literary, musical, oral narrative, or linguistic diffusion; the diffusion or differentiation of vernacular architecture and other forms of material culture; foodways; consolidation of diasporic identities and affiliations; constructions of nostalgia for lost or imaged places; or the personal pathways or itineraries during one's life.

- Projects that incorporate the dominant orientation of the Center are encouraged. This orientation is towards examination of community and place particularly in a comparative or connective framework with other places and larger cultural patterns in the South Atlantic region, and as they reveal commonalities and differentiations across that region. It welcomes projects that examine or preserve archives on specific places, or invite the participation of local memory keepers, that is, those at the local or subregional level who are most responsible for documenting, archiving, or commemorating community life.

- Projects must be completed within the time period of the award, which is July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, that is, the 2006/07 fiscal year. A project final report and presentation of any deliverables are due by June 10, 2007 or by the end of the stipulated funding period.

- Projects should address one of the areas of the strategic focus in the new Virginia Tech Strategic Plan 2006/2012 (www.provost.vt.edu) if possible.

- Funding is considered to be seed money to develop larger projects, and project funds are expected to be leveraged against additional external funding. SAHC directors (Dr. Pablo Davis at Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Dr. Anita Puckett at Virginia Tech) are willing to assist award recipients in seeking further funding to expand or develop projects more fully.

Types of Projects Considered

Projects must benefit the Center by advancing its mission, orientation, theme, curricular needs, or its digital library collections. They are also expected to advance the research, outreach, or curricular goals of applicants or their graduate students. Applications seeking funding for projects that do not directly benefit SAHC will not be considered. Examples of possible projects are:

- Symposia or conferences on humanistic issues pertinent to the U.S. South Atlantic or the South Atlantic in a transatlantic perspective. Topics organized around the theme of itineraries are especially welcome. Possible topics might include the impact of weather, particularly water devastation, on community lore, history, and traditions; the Underground Railroad routes and the journeys of those who used it; how local festivals or holiday celebrations identify and reconstitute civic life; examination of race, gender, and gender orientation issues; how language, literature, and local cultural life are impacted by itineraries; automobiles, railroads, great ships, air travel, and NASA's impact on communities; and the interconnectedness of white and non-white artistic or literary traditions. Incorporation of scholars outside of Virginia Tech is expected.

- Archival and documentary preservation projects as they pertain to SAHC's mission and goals. Innovative projects involving sound, music, dance, images, or text are welcome, as well as those based on well-established disciplinary methods of research.

- Digital mapping projects from any field that addresses the goals of SAHC. Those that also address the current theme of itineraries are encouraged.

- Development of a new course that contributes directly to an understanding of the South Atlantic as a region. A condition of National Endowment for the Humanities funding to establish the Center was to develop undergraduate and graduate curricula on the region. Currently, one course, HIST 5144 Transatlantic World, directly contributes to this mandate. Evidence of departmental support and how continual staffing will be insured is required.

- Creation of a tangible or digital exhibit, or a video or audio production that addresses any of SAHC's goals and, if possible, its current theme.

- Research manuscript on someone's or something's itinerary as it pertains to the construction of the South Atlantic. This type of project would then be integrated into the SAHC Website and digital library.

Guidelines for Submission

Proposals must meet the following guidelines:

- Cover sheet containing title, project director's name and contact information, beginning and ending dates of project, name and contact information for departmental accounts staff person, department account # where funds would be transferred, and total amount requested;
- A separate narrative of three to five single spaced pages that provides:
  - A rationale or statement of why the project is significant to the applicant's field (1.5 pages or less)
  - A concise but thorough description of the project (2 pages or less)
  - An explanation of the relationship between the work proposed and the mission and goals of SAHC, and, if relevant, its current theme (1.5 pages or less)
  - An explanation of how the project supports the Virginia Tech Strategic Plan 2006/2012 (.5 page or less)
  - References
- A list of key project personnel and a description of their role(s)
- A plan of work, including a schedule for completion of the project
- A description of project outcomes and anticipated benefits to the project director, his or her department or field, and SAHC
- Two page c.v. for key project personnel
- Budget

- Letters or emails of support for projects requiring use of Virginia Tech services (e.g., Video Broadcast Services or Digital Imaging) or from department heads for those addressing curricular development

Questions and Submission Address

Proposals should be submitted electronically by March 24, 2006, to gailmac@vt.edu

     Gail McMillan, Director
     Digital Library and Archives
     University Libraries, Virginia Tech (0434)
     Office: 231-9252

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of Virginia Tech SAHC faculty and Dr. Pablo Davis, Project Director, SAHC at Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. (pablo@southatlanticcenter.org; phone: 434.924.9946) Notification of awards will be made by April 21, 2006. Review Committee members are excluded from submitting proposals. Applicants may be contacted for additional information. Questions should be addressed to Gail McMillan.

Funding for this award competition comes from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. A total of $10,000 is available; the number of projects funded will depend on their merit, likelihood of obtaining additional funding, budget accuracy, and amounts requested. Award recipients are subject to Virginia Tech procedures regarding the use of funds.