

Mellon Curricular Pathways Civic Engagement Fund Guide

The Mellon Curricular Pathways Civic Engagement Fund provides support for civic engagement activities in courses. It is not limited to concentration courses. By civic engagement we mean activities that create mutually beneficial and reciprocal relationships between community members and Macalester or projects that engage Macalester's place in the larger public.

The fund can be used to support such activities as community-based research projects, community-based learning activities, internships that are embedded within courses, policy work, public scholarship, public art or community-based performances, etc., as a component of a course.

It can be used for a requirement for an entire class or for small-scale projects by a limited number of students. The specific requests can be submitted before the semester and/or requests can be made during the semester as activities and projects develop. Professors can apply multiple times for funding until the maximum limit for an individual course is reached. People cannot apply for funding for projects that are already completed.

The request must explain how both the community and students will benefit. Because of limited funds and the fund's focus, the grant cannot fund general field trips or guest speakers if students are not engaged in reciprocal and mutually beneficial relationships with the community during the semester. To allow funds for a variety of classes, there is a maximum dollar amount for requests within a particular course. This fund is not meant to support general college programming or speakers or co-curricular activities. There is a separate fund set up for public programming through the Mellon grant.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Paul Schadewald at schadewald@macalester.edu

I. Transportation (\$1,000 maximum per course):

The fund can be used to help students complete weekly or ongoing activities at community sites, and it can also be used to support one-time or periodic field trips that support reciprocal and mutually-beneficial relationships with community organizations. It could also be used to subsidize more extensive trips if the trips have a civic engagement component.

The college has a variety of transportation options available.

- College vans can transport a small number of students, 8 per van.
- HOUR Car (car sharing program) can transport 5 students
- Bus and rail passes can support students individually
- Charter buses and Mini Coach buses work for individual field trips (up to 49 students)

General Transportation prices:

Talk to Paul Schadewald to get an estimate for weekly transportation prices or for more extensive trips.

General prices for field trips or field research:

- School Bus \$250 for 4 hours (39 students)
- Charter Bus \$375 for 4 hours (49 students)
- Mini Coach \$275 for 4 hours (18 students with microphone)
- Mini Coach \$325 for 4 hours (29 students with microphone)

Examples of kinds of projects that could be funded:

A Geography professor wants to rent a charter bus to take students on a tour of the Crow River watershed to enable students to do public scholarship on the community that will be made available to community leaders.

A Psychology professor gives students the option of doing weekly service at nonprofits or schools instead of writing a major paper. This grant purchases bus passes for the semester for those students.

II. Community Member Honoraria (\$500 maximum per course):

This fund can be used for an individual or multiple people from the community to visit the class, with the larger purpose of contributing to a reciprocal and mutually-beneficial relationship between Macalester and the community. Typical allocations for individual guest speakers or presenters are \$50 - \$100.

This fund can also be used for community partners or for an advisory group for a class. They may work with students on a shared project, mentor students; read drafts of community-based research projects, provide feedback or collaborate on the development of a project; etc. Typical allocations for multiple meetings or on-going work are \$100 to \$250 per individual or group.

Examples:

An Economics professor is having her students work with organizations that are working on issues related to poverty and will bring in select leaders of those organizations to talk to the class.

A Political Science professor is dividing her class into small groups to complete policy briefs for community organizations. The organizations will meet several times with the professor and the students to develop the brief collaboratively.

III. Academic Speakers Honoraria (\$500 maximum per course):

The fund can be used to fund speakers or trainers whose primary affiliation is with an academic institution to strengthen civic engagement within that class. The community must benefit from the civic engagement work in the class.

Examples:

A Philosophy professor brings in Harry Boyte from the Humphrey Institute to discuss his book on citizenship to help students in the class prepare for the voter registration activity that the class will do.

A professor at the U of M School of Medicine talks to students in a Community and Global Health class about HIV/AIDS research in preparation for the class to write an editorial to the local paper about World AIDS Day.

IV. Subsidized Tickets for Events (\$250 maximum per course):

The fund can be used when the event supports civic engagement activities (forms mutually beneficial relationship with community organizations) in the class or is part of a partnership with the organization and the class.

Examples:

A Theatre professor is teaching a community-based theatre class and is in a partnership with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre. He takes students to the theatre to prepare students to do their community work.

One of the students in an Anthropology class is researching immigration as reflected in the arts. She wants to attend a current play at the Bedlam Theatre about immigrant narratives and she agrees to give a copy of her final research power point to the director of the play.

An Anthropology professor is having her students work in prisons. There is an exhibit of art from prisons at the Walker that will inform their community work.

V. Hosting or Organizing Event, Presentation, or Community Dialogue (\$250 maximum per course):

The fund can be used for the sharing or exchanging of knowledge with the community or to strengthen a partnership with community organizations in the context of a class.

Examples:

A Hispanic and Latin American Studies professor hosts a final campus event for teens from a Latino organization who have been working with her students during the semester and to showcase a DVD that they have made together.

Several students in an International Studies course hold a community dialogue about government policies after 911.

VI. Dissemination of Public Scholarship (\$250 maximum per course)

The fund can be used to add a public dimension to student work through performance, public art, the printing of publications for the wider community, or for the utilization of the media. The primary audience should be the public, not specifically an academic audience.

Examples:

A Geography class wants to print a public atlas and send it to local community members and elected officials.

A group of students in a history class wants to make oral histories that they completed as part of a class available to the MN Historical Society.

VII. Other (Considered individually)

We realize that faculty may come up with additional kinds of projects that are not covered by the list above. We encourage you to submit your requests. They will be considered individually.

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