Original Digital Humanities Center Proposal

Initial seed funding of $100,000 to begin development of an interdisciplinary Digital Humanities Center that fosters:

- research, professional development, and instructional space designed to facilitate the role of digital media, communication, visualization, and preservation tools in scholarship, teaching, and campus-community collaboration

- alignment with several of YSU's Strategic Planning Cornerstones, notably urban research, student success, and regional engagement
What are the “digital humanities”? 
- the acquisition of materials that are then digitized, or the digital acquisitions of materials, often artifacts with cultural or historical significance 
- the analysis of the data related to the materials 
- the presentation and publication of the analysis and/or artifacts, often in digital modes (video, audio, image, web-interface) 
- the development of curricula and programming that enable students, faculty, and citizens to be critical consumers and creative producers of digital communication
Sample DH Centers & Projects

- Carolina Digital Humanities Center
  - Ex. Slave Narrative Name Database
- Cleveland State Center for Public History & Digital Humanities
  - Ex. Curatescape Mobile App
- Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (UVA)
  - Ex. Walt Whitman Archive
- Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities
  - Ex. DocNow data collection and visualization of social media activism
Public and Digital Humanities @YSU

- CLASS Digital Humanities Working Group (2017-2018)
  - participants from Economics, English, Foreign Languages, Geography, History, Philosophy, Working Class Studies, Maag Library, & Office of Research

- Proposed CPDH
  - promote and sustain collaboration among faculty, staff, students and community groups in both new and existing digital teaching and research projects
  - preserve the economic, cultural, and geographic diversity of the Mahoning Valley through archival, instructional, and digital maker-spaces as it transitions from the “Rust Belt” to the “Tech Belt”
Representative Projects

- The CPDH will function as a physical and virtual maker-space for a range of public humanities projects, including but not limited to:
  - Center for Italian and Italian-American Studies (Fundraising Campaign Underway)
  - Classroom and Community Digital Storytelling Projects
  - Digital Humanities @Digital.Maag: Oral histories, faculty commons of scholarly work in DH
  - English Festival Archives (Celebration/Fundraising Event for English Festival, April 18)
  - Mapping the Mahoning Valley (proposed new initiative)
  - YHCIL Exhibits and Archives (including Working Class Studies)
Physical & Virtual Infrastructure (see materials)

- Lab Facilities in DeBartolo Hall, the Maag Library (including the Writing Center), and eventually the MVICC
- Digital.Maag online archival repository
- Mobile technologies for use in all spaces (tablets to access and produce digital content)
- Renovation of workspace in the YHCIL to host digital and print archives
# Budgetary Needs
*(total five-year cost estimates as presented to NEH)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment/Facilities</th>
<th>Unit Cost</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DH Studio Spaces: DH, MVICC, Maag</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space Renovation: YCHIL</td>
<td>$107,275</td>
<td>$107,275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tablet Carts (3)</td>
<td>$ 24,000</td>
<td>$ 72,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising Initiatives (events, materials, grant-writing)</td>
<td>$ 15,585</td>
<td>$ 77,928</td>
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</tbody>
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\[ \$ 857,203 - \$ 214,301 = \text{NEH} \]
\[ \$ 642,902 + \text{YSU} \]
Possible External Funding & Support

- March 15 application for a $214,301 NEH Challenge Grant for facilities and technology infrastructure only (3X matching funds required)
- Cisco Spark Station to be installed in DeBartolo Hall 561 (part of lab facilities renovation)
- Fundraising Campaigns, including current work for English Festival, Italian and Italian-American Studies, named professorships
- Funding for MVICC
- State-level grants from Ohio Humanities & additional project-specific NEH funding
How Can $100,000 Help?

**Possibilities:**
- Initial support for renovation of DeBartolo 561 as a DH Studio
- Any necessary software & hardware upgrades
- Faculty/Staff time
- Student workers (including Grad. Assistants)

**Goals:**
- Show YSU’s commitment in the event we need to reapply for the grant in 2019
Campus & Community Support

- Martin Abraham, YSU Provost
- Sherrod Brown, United States Senator
- Shari Harrell, Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley
- Jennifer Roller, Raymond John Wean Foundation
- Gary Sexton, WYSU
- Scott Schulick, David & Helga Ives Family Trustee
- James Shuttic, Fine Arts Council of Trumbull County
- Patricia Williamsen, Ohio Humanities
Next Steps

- Appoint faculty CPDH Coordinators for fundraising/grant-writing/programming (reassigned time)
- Continue collaboration of the DH Working Group to begin faculty development initiatives (including symposium to highlight DH projects and integrate them into undergraduate classrooms)
- Work with CLASS chairs/faculty/IT to create DeBartolo DH Studio
- Work with YSU Foundation to create a fundraising proposal and plan for CPDH (YSU Foundation)
- Promote related graduate courses in Public Humanities for AY 18-19 (AMER 6030, Humanities in the Community, AMER 6980, Public Humanities Internship, along with courses in Applied History, certificate in Working Class Studies, to develop collaborative teams)
Impact

- The Center for Public and Digital Humanities will help these programs and initiatives to thrive through curricular, physical, virtual, and workforce infrastructure.

- The Center will further align CLASS with Strategic Plan Cornerstones: sustainability, student success, urban research, and regional engagement.

- Through the design of multiple technological spaces on- and off-campus, we will promote both the vital role of the humanities in YSU’s academic and community mission and honor the Mahoning Valley’s diverse cultural history and contemporary revitalization.