Huronford Center for the Arts and Humanities intern at the Pennsylvania Humanities Council

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC) has attracted a Hurford Center (HCAH) intern for many years now, with mutually beneficial results for both the intern and PHC. HCAH interns have played key roles as PHC has embraced its new mission to put the humanities into action, and implemented our programs in 21st century learning and civic engagement. In both these areas, we and our partners use the humanities to make positive change: in communities and in the lives of individuals.

Description of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC) is the only statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the humanities. We are an independent partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities and part of a network of 56 State Humanities Councils that spans the nation and U.S. jurisdictions.

Our operations are funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Federal/State Partnership Office, with additional program funding from generous individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies. PHC has an eight member professional staff, and our annual operating budget averages $1.6 million.

Vision
We believe the humanities inspire people to make a difference and come together to advance cultural diversity, economic vibrancy, and an equitable society.

Mission
Our work is grounded in people. We connect Pennsylvanians to each other through stories, ideas, and experiences that can change lives and transform communities.

Our Work
We champion and redefine the role the humanities play in educating citizens and strengthening community. Our programs create pathways for learning and creativity, spark dialogue and civic engagement, and encourage diversity of expression.

Project Summary
The HCAH intern will have the opportunity to work with PHC staff on several multi-faceted program, development, and communications projects, which may include:
1) Programs
   a. **Teen Reading Lounge**
      The Teen Reading Lounge is PHC’s award winning youth development program. It is not your typical book club. Led by trained facilitators, the program encourages teens ages 12-18 to design creative projects that bring books to life. We are implementing our second round of a version of the program tailored to serve teens from low-income communities this year and piloting the program in new Out of School Time settings in Philadelphia, and the HCAH intern could work with program and communications staff to promote the success of the program through a variety of platforms and support technical assistance and webinars produced for program partners.
   
   b. **Chester Made**
      Chester Made is a collaborative initiative, led by PHC, to help recognize and promote the arts and culture in the City of Chester, and to harness their power as a force for community revitalization. The program is supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage. These grants fund the development of a Creative Exploration Zone in Chester to animate public spaces, and youth activities, including summer camps around *Underground Chester*, exploring the history of Chester and its implications for the city and its residents today. The HCAH intern could assist the senior staff with on-the-ground events and design projects in our new makers space, youth summer camp, history workshops, community outreach, and communications efforts.
   
   c. **Pennsylvania Heart & Soul**
      Through a partnership with the Orton Family Foundation, we are currently working with residents in Carlisle, Meadville, and Williamsport to incorporate elements of the humanities into their planning processes, as well as planning with a number of communities to start this process in 2019. All three communities are using Orton’s Community Heart & Soul® method as a framework. Community Heart & Soul is a proven process that improves local decision-making and ultimately strengthens social, cultural and economic vibrancy. A key component is learning what matters most to the community through gathering stories from and engaging as many residents as possible, including those who don’t typically participate in public processes. The HCAH intern could participate in community of practice calls and workshop presentations to current and planning grantees, and assist with communications and promotions.

2) Development
   a. **Prospect and Donor Research**
      PHC is expanding its funding base by cultivating major gifts from individuals and new grants from public agencies and private foundations and corporations. A key element to the success of such fundraising is obtaining accurate background information on prospects. The HCAH intern could research prospects and current donors to help us identify which ones are the best fit for each of our programs and for major requests.
   
   b. **Developing printed materials**
      Another tool in expanding our fundraising base is developing and updating materials about our programs that describe the value and impact of our programs in the communities we serve. The HCAH intern could help with the design and composition of these pieces.
c. Cultivation events
The HCAH intern might also assist development staff with planning and producing donor cultivation events. These events will be designed based on input from board members, who are currently in the process of identifying and sharing their connections to prospective donors, funders, and partners.

3) Communications and Advocacy
Working with PHC’s Programs, Development, and Communications staff, the HCAH intern will assist with planning and carrying out a variety of digital communications and government relations activities, which could include social media, e-newsletters, video production, web content development, and a variety of advocacy materials. The HCAH intern may have the opportunity to write articles about PHC’s programs and advocacy efforts, as well as visit state and federal legislators.

Skills and Experience Offered
This is a unique experience for a student of the humanities to explore the multi-faceted demands of a nonprofit career in the public humanities – from program development and production to communications about our projects, from stewarding our donors and funders to meeting our constituents. The HCAH intern should be passionate about the humanities and its value for individual growth and social change. Curiosity is a must, as well as openness to new ideas and working with diverse communities, individuals, and institutions as a powerful way of achieving a greater good. The student should be able to work both independently and in team settings in an office environment. Excellent communications skills, oral and written, are necessary, along with basic computer skills. Previous experience with social media, audio, or video is a plus, but not required.

Challenges and Rewards
The HCAH intern will experience the challenges and rewards of finding creative ways to leverage the staff and resources of a small non-profit by partnering with like-minded organizations to bring humanities programming to a larger audience. The greatest reward will be working with an incredible staff of committed and seasoned professionals at the PHC.

PHC really appreciates being part of the Haverford College Humanities Center internship program. We truly value the insight, skills, and mission driven approach to work that these students bring to our organization. For instance, in 2016, Olivia Jacocks was a tremendous asset to our organization.

In support of the communications department, she interviewed a number of program advisors and participants and wrote feature stories for our website and e-newsletters. She worked closely with PHC communications staff and an outside web-development firm as they moved toward relaunching the PHC website, contributing to user-experience strategy, helping to create new content, and to migrate old content. She also helped us refine the concept for a short video about our Teen Reading Lounge program and contributed to the final video editing.

Olivia worked with program staff as well, supporting PHC’s award-winning teen Reading Lounge program. She conducted research on the value of humanities-based afterschool programs; reviewed applications from libraries and helped facilitate the application process; and conducted site visits of TRL programs in action.
Her valuable contributions and skills, and her enthusiasm for the mission and work of PHC led to us hiring her in a part-time position after her internship ended.

Other past HCHA interns have greatly contributed to PHC’s programs, while gaining valuable experience themselves. In 2017, Isabel Floyd assisted in developing programming in our new Chester Made makerspace with nationally known planner Mike Lydon, author of *Tactical Urbanism*, and community partners on a variety of “make it, and take it” projects like fruit baskets, as well as an innovative summer history camp that led teens through learning about the history of segregation of the schools in Chester and developing a theater pieces in response for presentation to the community. Isabel presented on her experience to summer interns in Franklin & Marshall’s program as well.

In 2015, Kevin Jin participated in hands-on community development work with the Chester Made project. He participated in planning meetings and worked on the ground in Chester organizing and staffing events. He worked with the project partners, which are The City of Chester, Widener University, Americans for the Arts, Chester Arts Alive!, Gas & Electric Arts and The Artist Warehouse, while coordinating events. He also interacted with community leaders and Chester residents at public events, like the Arts Loop on July 1. Through this project, Kevin gained experience in community engagement work in the field.

Rachel Baron, our 2014 Hurford Center Intern conducted an insightful interview with Laura Ducceschi, President and CEO of the Scranton Area Foundation, the lead partner on our civic engagement grant to use the humanities to develop a pocket park in West Scranton. She wrote an outstanding article for our e-newsletter. Rachel left us feeling inspired, planning to take what she learned at PHC and apply it to school and her future work. She is now the Development Coordinator for StreetWise Partners in New York City, a career-mentoring program that helps clients break the cycle of poverty and get on a path to economic self-sufficiency.

Andrew Lanham, who was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship after graduation from Haverford in 2010, did initial research for PHC’s Teen Reading Lounge program and worked to save funding for our library programming following state budget cuts. Teen Reading Lounge is now our flagship education program, and Andrews is a successful entrepreneur and developer of the TalkAbout Museum guide app.

**Supervision and Work Location**

Bryan Clark, operations manager, will manage the HCAH intern. Supervision and direction for work on individual projects will come from PHC’s other senior staff members: Laurie Zierer, executive director; Mimi Iijima, director of programs and special projects; Mary Ellen Burd, director of communications; and Ken Dinitz, director of development. The vast majority of the work will take place at PHC’s center city Philadelphia offices, but may also include the opportunity to travel to State College for a meeting to kick-off the Penn State Reads program, or for a cultivation event, and to occasional local and regional PHC events and meetings with PHC partners, program participants, donors, funders and legislators.