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ICS Statement of Purpose

ICS Bowling State University

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Bowling Green State University

4/18/95

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INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE, SOCIETY, AND HUMAN VALUES

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

I. The Primary Goal of the Institute:

The primary goal of the Institute is to provide internal support for Bowling Green State University faculty to pursue projects of merit in the arts and humanities as well as related areas of humanistic inquiry in the social sciences and education where external sources of funding are limited. The Institute will provide a forum for this work at the university and in the larger community.

Supported projects will address a broad range of topics relating to the study of culture, society, and human values from regional, national, and global perspectives, including projects in the creative arts that represent the literary, musical, visual, theatre and performing arts, as well as other areas.

II. Additional Goals of the Institute:

Another important goal of the Institute is to create an environment of scholarly dialogue and exchange in which Institute Artists and Scholars in Residence are encouraged to reflect on, and respond to, each other's work across disciplinary lines. Regularly scheduled Institute seminars and forums will provide opportunities for this kind of interaction.

In addition, the Institute will include support for the integration of teaching, research, and creative practices; it will also encourage dialogue between Institute participants and the broader community.

III. Rationale for the Award Program:

The Institute's Award Program enables faculty members to devote their time to projects that enhance their intellectual efforts and enrich the university community. The semester or year provided individual faculty for uninterrupted work and interaction with other Institute Artists and Scholars in Residence is vital to faculty development; it also represents a commitment on the part of the institution to attract and retain faculty of the highest quality. In addition, the Institute's biweekly seminars, university forums, and outreach activities, in which Institute Artists and Scholars are expected to participate, encourage a sense of university and community connectedness. As a result, the Institute may facilitate greater integration of interdisciplinary perspectives in teaching and research and create additional opportunities for team-teaching efforts. Students also benefit from the Institute's Award Program through supported research assistantships and through invited participation in Institute-sponsored activities.

The Institute Award Program is designed to complement, rather than compete with or replace, existing internal research support programs at Bowling Green State University. Applications will be welcome from tenured faculty across the university.

IV. The Institute Award Program:

Each fall and spring semester, six to eight faculty from departments and programs across the university receive Institute awards to pursue research or creative work. During the award period, faculty are relieved of teaching and service responsibilities in their home departments or programs, with the exception of continuing service on previously established M.A. and Ph.D committees.

Institute Artists and Scholars in Residence remain on regular academic-year salary throughout the award period. Instructional units receive compensation to offset the release time of selected faculty. When an individual department or program determines that it is appropriate, a faculty member in residence at the Institute may also be considered for the assignment of a research assistant for up to twelve months. When a department or program is unable to provide such assistance, the Graduate College will endeavor to provide it.

V. Participation of Institute Artists and Scholars in Residence:

Institute Artists and Scholars in Residence are expected to participate in the Institute's on-going biweekly seminars, university forums, and in some appropriate form of outreach activity, the latter to take place during or in the year following the award period (See Section VI.). In these settings, faculty share their perspectives on the nature and importance of the research or creative process in which they are involved. They also consider the impact their project will have on the classroom experience and discuss ways in which future course offerings, content, and pedagogy will be enhanced or significantly altered as a result.

The Institute's biweekly seminar series is a central component of the award program. Institute Artists and Scholars in Residence meet with the Director and other interested faculty and students twice a month throughout the award period. Seminar meetings afford faculty the opportunity to discuss their evolving projects with colleagues outside their own areas of expertise; these meetings also give participants the chance to share new areas of research and creative expression in an atmosphere of collaborative support, critical exchange, and shared commitment.

In addition to attending biweekly seminars, Institute Artists and Scholars in Residence are encouraged to participate in relevant university-wide forums sponsored by the Institute or by other on-campus programs. Such forums are open to the university community and relate in some fashion to the issues of investigation and debate which are being pursued by one or more Institute participants in a given year. Institute-sponsored forums may take the form of a university lecture series or a colloquium; examples of other suitable university forums include the Arts and Sciences luncheon lectureship, a presentation at a university-hosted conference such as the annual Ethnic Studies conference or participation in a university symposium such as the annual Reddin Symposium on Canada, or a creative presentation in conjunction with an event or showing at the Art Gallery in the School of Art.

VI. Institute Outreach:

Outreach activities -- contact, discussion, and interaction with the public outside the university -- are an integral part of the Institute's mission to provide a forum for faculty research and creative work in the larger community. The Institute will sponsor and support outreach programs and activities that present and help interpret issues in the arts, humanities, and social sciences to people outside the university. Community involvement will also help Institute participants identify topics of public interest and concern.

Every recipient of an Institute award will be asked to participate in one outreach presentation or activity during or immediately following the award period in order to help parents, alumni, community leaders, and the public develop a better understanding of the interconnectedness of teaching, research, and creative work. Examples of possible outreach activities include but are not limited to: a presentation to alumni, parents, or community members; televised programming to other communities, schools, or universities; radio programming; meeting with local association members, civic leaders, religious groups, or public school teachers and administrators; and community-oriented seminars on issues of scholarly debate which will have an impact on education, public policy, cross-cultural exchange, and multicultural understanding. The Director of the Institute coordinates these events.

VII. Application guidelines:

Each applicant will submit six copies of the following: an application form cover page; a detailed description of the proposed research project (8-10 pages); a current academic vitae; an abstract of the project explaining the significance of the research topic or creative project for his or her teaching; a budget, if relevant; and the names of two external references who will provide separate letters of support on behalf of the applicant. Applicants must seek the endorsement of the appropriate chair or director and the appropriate college dean for their application. Application deadlines will be announced approximately six months prior to the award period. Application guidelines and review criteria will be updated and distributed annually.

The applicant will also be asked to indicate what efforts, if any, have been made to seek external funding for his/her project, especially if additional funds are needed to complete the project.

VIII. Review Criteria:

In reviewing applications, Institute panelists will consider the following criteria: relevance to the humanistic study of culture, society, and human values; clarity and coherence of the project description; significance of the project for the applicant's scholarly or creative field; significance of the project for the applicant's teaching and professional development; likelihood that the project will significantly enrich the student, faculty, and community environment of BGSU; and likelihood that the project will be completed in a timely manner.

Applicants will be expected to provide a description of the project in a style intelligible to colleagues outside the applicant's immediate discipline or area of expertise. Applicants will be asked to outline the nature of the scholarly or creative project, indicate clearly what the expected outcome will be, and explain how the project enhances understanding of one or more aspects of the study of culture, society, and human values from a humanistic perspective. Suggestions about one or more possible ways in which some aspect of the project could be shared with the outside community will also be encouraged.

Humanistic inquiry, as it pertains to culture, society, and human values, is informed by methods and analyses that are qualitative, aesthetic, historical, comparative, political, philosophical and ethical, and/or theoretical. Scholarly projects of a purely scientific, technological, or primarily quantitative nature will not be supported. While the ultimate relationship of the project to better teaching is important, awards will not be granted for projects that only involve curriculum or course development.

IX. Selection of Award Recipients:

Review of applications for the Institute Award Program is made annually by a panel of five tenured professors from BGSU, which includes three faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences, one from the College of Education, and one from the College of Musical Arts. A sixth senior faculty member external to BGSU, who is selected by the panel members in consultation with the Director, serves as a consultant. The Associate Vice President for Research or the Dean's designate serves in an advisory capacity. Members of the Institute's review panel serve for two or three years and also serve on the Institute's Advisory Council. During their tenure on the Institute's review panel, faculty members are not eligible for Institute awards. Recommendations for the designation of Institute Artists and Scholars in Residence are forwarded to the VPAA for approval in consultation with the deans of the appropriate colleges.

Successful Institute applicants must wait 5 years before applying for a second Institute award.

X. Responsibilities of the Institute's Director:

The Director of the Institute coordinates and oversees all activities sponsored by the Institute. These activities include biweekly seminars for Institute Artists and Scholars in Residence, forums for the university

community, outreach presentations and activities, colloquia and other meetings hosted or co-hosted by the Institute, and public relations information about the Institute's mission and activities. The Director also solicits the participation of visiting scholars already at BGSU who have an interest in the Institute's mission, goals, and activities. The Director ensures that, when needed, Institute Artists and Scholars in Residence receive pertinent information on external funding sources to which they may apply for further support to complete their projects.

To enhance the feasibility of sponsoring a wide-range of activities, the Director coordinates all fund-raising and grant-writing efforts for the Institute. Examples of additional activities that could be sponsored by the Institute, should fund-raising efforts prove successful, include but are not limited to: an endowed annual lectureship series; a visiting Scholars and Artists program; a working papers series; and supported conferences on humanistic topics and approaches pertaining to the study of culture, society, and human values.

The term of the directorship is three years.

Institute proposal submitted by:

Delia Aguilar (Ethnic Studies/Women's Studies)
Joyce Gromko (Music Education)
Kathleen Farber (EDFI)
Dawn Glanz (School of Art)
Don Nieman (History)
Philip Terrie (English)
Karen Gould (Graduate College and committee chair)