The Michigan/Mellon Project on Egalitarianism and the Metropolis is a 4-year academic and research initiative focused on architecture, urbanism and humanities research in Detroit, Mexico City DF and Rio de Janeiro, and is made possible by a $1.3 million grant from the A. W. Mellon Foundation. The project allows the particularity of design practices to inform and be informed by broader questions of social justice, social movements and transformative creative arts movements - both historically and contemporaneously. The emphasis on cities and their specificity will focus humanists on linking abstract theories of human interaction with the physical attributes of a city and its histories. The increased expertise in urbanism allows for humanists to better understand the material, geographical, and infrastructural constraints that inform design decisions, while designers benefit from direct engagement with humanities scholarship which can more amply critique the structural inequalities driven by, for example, racial or class disparities (arising out of ideological biases) that have been impediments to urban development. The project, launched in 2014, includes lecture and seminar courses, research fellowships, symposia, colloquia and films, exhibitions and publications.

2016-2017 Fellowships

Humanities Fellows are expected to pursue independent research projects at the intersection of architecture, urbanism and the humanities, with particular emphasis on the role of egalitarianism in shaping urban metropolitan regions. Fellows’ scholarship and/or creative work should also address aspects of one or more of the focus cities (Detroit, Mexico City DF and Rio de Janeiro). Fellows will join a vibrant intellectual community where interdisciplinary work is welcomed and new ways of integrating knowledge across the design and humanities disciplines is encouraged and incentivized. Humanities Fellows will teach two classes a year, including two 4-week (one-day) modules affiliated with the Michigan Architecture Prep Program - a semester-long architecture enrichment program for Detroit-based high school juniors. Courses will be one of their own devising (either a seminar or a lecture course); alternatively, Fellows may be asked to teach sections affiliated with a lecture course on the Program themes and/or large seminar courses focused on aspects of post-industrial and megacity issues. Each Fellow will receive work space at the University of Michigan. Fellows are encouraged to seek support from external agencies if it appears that their scholarly and creative work will be enhanced by such grants. At the end of each fellowship year, Fellows are required to submit a written report on their activities and are encouraged to present their work to a public audience.
Qualifications
The University of Michigan invites applications from diverse backgrounds in the humanities (including but not limited to philosophy, art history and visual culture, media and cultural studies, urban studies, English and comparative literature, romance studies, Spanish and lusaphone studies, African-American and Latin American Studies). Applicants should possess a capacious appetite for intersections between their field of study, architecture and urban design. Fellows are expected to be in the early stages of their academic or professional careers. Candidates must be within 4 calendar years from receipt of their highest degree. This appointment is not tenure-track. This opportunity is open to 1) candidates for a PhD in a humanities-based discipline who have successfully completed their Examination for Admission to Candidacy and 2) candidates who are within 4 years of completion of their PhD. Candidates should possess and articulate their demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion broadly defined.

Appointment Dates
2 Humanities Fellows are appointed for one calendar year, extendable to a maximum of 2 years. Each Fellow should designate interest in a 1-year or 2-year fellowship term. The appointment is from August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017.

Compensation/ Benefits
Humanities Fellows will receive a salary of $46,807 in compensation as well as fringe and health benefits. Fellows are eligible for participation in the University health, dental and life insurance programs. Each Fellow will receive 1 research stipend of $2,500 per calendar year that may be used for research-related expenses.

Application Materials
• Cover Letter
• Curriculum Vitae (including degrees earned, experience, and honors)
• Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement (max. 1 page)
• Research Project Statement (max. 1 page)
• Teaching Interest Statement (max. 1 page)
• Recommendation Letters (2)
• Writing Sample (max. 12 pages)
• Optional: Visual portfolio (max. 10 pages)

Submissions
Submission Deadline: January 11, 2016
Submit Application Documents via PDF to:
Kate Grandfield, Project Administrator
U-M Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
grandk@umich.edu
734.615.5260

Questions
Program Questions:
Milton S.F. Curry (msfcurry@umich.edu)
Project Director and Associate Dean, Taubman College
Matthew Biro (mbiro@umich.edu)
Project Director and Chair, History of Art

The University of Michigan is an equal opportunity / affirmative action employer. Offers of employment are contingent upon successful completion of background checks.