

1. Narrative

1.1 Project Overview

Establishing a Digital Humanities (DH) Center remains an important initiative for San José State University (SJSU). SJSU's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library (King Library), in collaboration with the College of Humanities and Arts (H&A), is excited to resubmit our application to the National Endowment for the Humanities Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants: Capital Projects Program. We seek \$375,000 to help provide capital expenditures for a DH Center that will be dedicated to supporting teaching and research in digital humanities at SJSU and fostering interest and participation in digital humanities within the community. The Challenge Grant will be used to purchase equipment and extend the functionality of our current technology infrastructure to build an open and technology-enabled DH Center. King Library and H&A will leverage the Challenge Grant to jumpstart our fundraising efforts as we continue to build support for the DH Center over the next five years.

The DH Center comes at a timely moment at SJSU. In the past year, SJSU launched Transformation 2030, its strategic plan to invest in education, research, and engagement with the community, both locally and globally. To achieve the vision of Transformation 2030, SJSU underwent a university wide effort in fall 2019 to develop a comprehensive fundraising campaign. The DH Center was one of the top ten initiatives highly endorsed by the university for its alignment with the strategic plan's goals to Engage and Educate; Excel and Lead; Connect and Contribute; and Rebuild and Renew (See 8: Letters of Support; 13.1: Strategic Plan). The DH Center will provide a transformational learning space to SJSU's faculty and students with long-term impact on research, teaching, and learning. Also, it will enhance SJSU's connection to the community, now even more important as the world turns to engaging online due to COVID-19.

Ideally located in King Library, a joint use library with the City of San José, the proposed DH Center will continue SJSU's long-range efforts to invest in research and learning for Transformation 2030. SJSU will lead the renovations for the DH Center under the purview of the Chief Financial Officer. The university is well-versed in the Davis-Bacon Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and is prepared to move forward with Section 106 and a National Environmental Policy Act review if an assessment is deemed necessary. Upon its completion, SJSU will help sustain the DH Center as a part of its overall annual support to King Library.

1.2 Humanities Significance and Audience

The humanities have a strong presence at SJSU through the more than 500 events, performances, and exhibits held annually by H&A, the diverse holdings and collections in King Library, and the various cultural centers on campus. Collectively, they provide year-round programming in the humanities that engages SJSU students, faculty, staff members, and the community. Many of the humanities programs occur in our centers on campus, which also hold historical collections that serve as valuable resources for research and teaching. They include:

- **The Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies**, a research library and museum that hosts educational programs, concerts, lectures, and tours for the university and the public.
- **The Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies**, one of the largest archives of Steinbeck materials (manuscripts, letters, film memorabilia, photographs) that offers public programming, free curriculum for teachers, and fellowships for emerging writers.
- **The Center for Literary Arts (CLA)** hosts readings, lectures, and seminars to spread the influence of and interest literature in Silicon Valley that reflects the diverse talents, voices, and cultures of the region.

- **SJSU Special Collection and Archives** collects and preserves materials pertaining to SJSU and Silicon Valley's rich history that have impacted and influenced the region and the world. Collections are accessible through the Online Archive of California (AOC).
- **The Africana, Asian American, Chicano, & Native American Studies Center (AAACNA)** is a cultural center that supports historically underrepresented groups through programs, exhibits, and resource materials for instruction and research.
- **The California Room**, managed by the public library, collects historical materials on the City of San José and Santa Clara Valley.

These centers will be viable collaborators with the DH Center and will benefit from its resources and services to support their own projects in digital humanities. In addition, both King Library and H&A hold two unique partnerships with the City of San José that will extend the use and impact of the DH Center to the community (See 8: Letters of Support).

- **Hammer Theater** is a modern performance venue located in downtown San José owned by the city but operated by SJSU since 2016. This partnership puts the university in a rare position to offer its events and programs to a public audience in a professional venue.
- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Library** serves as both a main branch (SJPL) and university library in a partnership between the City of San José and SJSU. The university library provides access to more than 800,000 ebooks, ejournals, and a digital humanities guide covering work by SJSU faculty (See 13.2: Website). The public library holds over 2 million items in its collections in more than 50 languages. Holdings in both libraries are accessible to both the SJSU and public communities, as will the proposed DH Center.

Also flourishing at SJSU is the field of digital humanities widely defined. Across campus, faculty in all nine colleges at SJSU are engaged in digital humanities projects that draw upon

technology as a part of their inquiry, methodology, or pedagogy (See 13.3: List of Projects). Projects range from exploring the use of artificial intelligence in data and design to connecting art, humanities, and engineering in a gallery exhibition of Wafaa Bilal's Canto III satellite launch. At the same time, adopting digital humanities methods in classes has gained traction on campus with H&A holding the highest number of courses engaged in digital pedagogy. Many of these courses are a part of SJSU's *Deep Humanities and Arts Initiative* launched in spring 2018 with H&A's bicentennial celebration of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (See 13.4: Article). The initiative draws upon the humanities to frame our understanding of technology, particularly as tech companies grapple with the ethical and social impact of their work — from user privacy and artificial intelligence to biotech. A notable example is the one-day hack-a-thon on “Deep Humanities for Socially Responsible Technology” tentatively scheduled for fall 2020. Led by Dr. Revathi Krishnaswamy, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, with support from a recent California Humanities project grant, the hack-a-thon will take place in King Library in collaboration with SJPL to bring together students and faculty from SJSU's Colleges of H&A, Engineering, and Science with Silicon Valley artists, academics, authors, and hackers to develop socially responsible approaches to digital cultural mapping and multimodal design.

As the *Deep Humanities and Arts Initiative* grows to include multiple disciplines and colleges across SJSU, the DH Center will serve as a central place to bring digital humanities projects across campus together for researchers to view and share their work and build collaborations across disciplines and colleges. Researchers will have access to a dedicated technology-enabled space to help them sustain and scale their work beyond the support they receive from their respective departments or, in some cases, external grants.

When completed, the DH Center will contribute to the overall resources and services King Library offers to audiences in the university and the community. They include:

- **Undergraduate Students:** SJSU has a robust undergraduate student population of 28,000. The DH Center will provide undergraduate students with opportunities to conduct hands-on research as a part of their majors, enabling them to work independently or in collaboration with faculty.
- **Graduate Students:** Nearly 8,000 graduate students are enrolled in SJSU in more than 60 master's level programs. The DH Center will provide digital resources and training outside of the college for graduate students to complete their theses or research projects.
- **Faculty:** Close to 2,000 faculty teach at SJSU as professors, full-time and part-time lecturers, and teaching associates. The DH Center will help faculty explore research in digital humanities and adopt digital pedagogy in their curriculum.
- **Community:** The DH Center's location in King Library will enhance the university's connection to the community. Since King Library opened in 2003, the number of visitors has doubled from 1.2 million to over 2.2 million in 2018. We anticipate the number to increase with in-person and online visits to the DH Center both to engage in digital humanities, connect with the campus community, and participate in SJSU digital humanities events geared to a public audience.

1.3 Personnel and Project Plans

The DH Center project will be led by Dean Shannon Miller of H&A and Acting Dean Ann Agee of King Library with support from Associate Dean of Innovation and Resource Management Christina Mune in King Library. Both Dean Miller and Acting Dean Agee will have oversight of the project's work plan, ensuring proposed activities occur on time and on

budget and the required matching funds are raised each year. On the latter, both will work closely with the Development Directors in King Library and H&A. In addition, Dean Miller will serve as an advisor for the DH Center based on her work with humanities faculty in H&A and on the *Deep Humanities and Arts Initiative*; while Interim Dean Agee will be responsible for staffing the DH Center and providing training for current staff and new hires. Expected staff for the DH Center includes a Director of Collections and Scholarly Communications; Institutional Repository and Digital Scholarship Coordinator; and Research Impact Librarian. All will work together to help users understand and demonstrate the impact of their work and manage the evolving needs of data collection, storage, and preservation. Associate Dean Mune will act as project director, managing the day-to-day activity of the project from the renovation and technology upgrades to all equipment purchases and installation. She will work closely with both Dean Miller and Interim Dean Agee to support fundraising efforts.

King Library and H&A will complete the proposed DH Center over five years to be fully equipped with a strong technology infrastructure and a flexible and well-equipped workspace. The technology digital infrastructure will build upon existing technology at SJSU when available, while equipment for the DH Center will complement existing technologies already in place at King Library, including a virtual reality lab; a large circulating technology collection that provides access to high-end laptops, tablets, and digital cameras; and a 3D printing lab.

Year one will focus on renovations to put in consultation, collaboration, and presentation spaces with panel partitions and a lounge (See 9: Design). Other renovations include upgrades to the electrical system, addition of lighting, and installation of new furniture. Fundraising in year one will target donors in King Library and H&A along with faculty and emeritus faculty in H&A.

Year two will be the start of our work on the digital infrastructure as we expand data storage space for application hosting and data storage. Work includes 1) the implementation of an on-demand individual virtual machine (VM) dashboards to host open-source software required by many digital humanities projects to create, store and share work, and 2) the addition of a computing node to the university's existing high-performance computing systems to support projects that involve high volumes of data processing and visualization, image processing and text mining. Upgrades to the digital infrastructure will enable the DH Center to offer tools and services to faculty, students, and community researchers as their needs grow with the scale and scope of their work. Fundraising in year two will ramp up and expand to the eight other colleges at SJSU, and SJSU's Corporate and Foundation Relations team. The DH Center will help King Library broaden its corporate support and outreach in the community since most prospective companies are located in Silicon Valley.

Year three will begin our equipment purchase and installation. We will purchase three large PC screens for the consultation stations; 30 laptops pre-configured with digital humanities tools for class use; and a high-resolution, large-format scanner for on-demand digitization projects that students, faculty, and community researchers can reserve. Fundraising will extend campus wide with SJSU's Annual Fund team incorporating the DH Center into its annual appeal.

Year four will be the continuation of our equipment purchase. We will purchase and install the first of two 135" interactive touch screen video wall(s) for the presentation space to be used for visualization and collaboration. We propose two 135" screens to allow the room to be partitioned by panels to serve as classrooms or work spaces when not in use for larger gatherings. Fundraising will switch gears to online campaigns to continue building community support. Options may include crowdfunding, email campaign and text messaging.

Year five will center on finalizing our equipment purchase and installation and completing our fundraising. We will purchase the second 135” interactive touch screen to complete the video walls for the presentation space. Fundraising in the last year will focus on closing outstanding gifts, completing proposals and garnering community support.

1.4 Evaluation

The DH Center will have a significant impact on SJSU’s teaching, research, and scholarship in the digital humanities and arts. In particular, it will enable SJSU to further its mission to enrich students’ lives and learning and deepen its connection to the community through its research and scholarship.

- **Students’ Lives and Learning:** The DH Center will provide undergraduate and graduate students opportunities to work on large-scale research projects that will help them develop digital skills (e.g. programming, cloud computing, mapping, interpreting data) as well as transferable skills (e.g. problem-solving, teamwork, project management) associated with humanities training. These skills will help the students in their future careers, particularly in the tech rich industries of Silicon Valley. As both an AANAPI and Hispanic-Serving Institution, SJSU is well-positioned too to help tech companies diversify their workforces, an ongoing concern for this industry.
- **Community:** The DH Center will open opportunities for visitors to engage in digital humanities events and research in partnership with SJSU librarians, faculty, and students. The DH Center will also serve as a great resource partner for SJPL programs such as Silicon Valley Reads, a Santa Clara county-wide reading group, to provide digital enhancement of their readings; and the California Room to increase their digital presence for easier accessibility, a great appeal to genealogists and local historians.

- **Research:** Researchers will have access to a range of resources and services in the DH Center to support, sustain, and scale their research. This will support the digital humanities courses expected to grow with the *Deep Humanities and Arts Initiative* and the potential interdisciplinary and community-partnered projects it will create.
- **Scholarship:** The growing research in digital humanities from faculty and students will contribute to the university's RSCA output, a key priority for SJSU that aligns with the goals of Transformation 2030 to Connect and Contribute to the local and global communities through our research and scholarship.

To assess the impact of the DH Center in these areas, King Library and H&A will collect metrics on courses, events and activities, and large-scale or individual digital humanities projects by researchers. We will evaluate these metrics to measure the usage of the DH Center and its impact on the level of engagement in digital humanities across campus and in the community. Successful outcomes may include an increase in the number of digital humanities courses, events and activities offered with high enrollment, attendance, and participation; potential collaborative projects between the university and public; and the publication and citation of resulting digital humanities scholarship in SJSU's Open Access institutional repository, ScholarWorks.

1.5 Fundraising and Financial Capacity

King Library and H&A bring a depth of fundraising experience to the NEH Challenge Grant. Both have extensive donor bases that include alumni, current and emeritus faculty, corporations and foundations, and community members. Prior to its opening in 2003, King Library raised \$3 million from its base to help build the library. Ten years later, its donors helped King Library successfully complete its first NEH Challenge Grant, securing over \$1 million to establish an NEH Endowment to acquire digital humanities resources. Similarly, H&A has had

enormous fundraising success. Since 2013, H&A has raised over \$12 million to fund visual arts, performing arts, and humanities initiatives, including a significant gift to support the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies. Based on this history, the match for the NEH Challenge Grant is well within the fundraising range for King Library and H&A.

The Deans and Associate Deans in both the King Library and H&A will work closely with their Development Directors to secure matching funds for the NEH Challenge Grant from their respective donor bases. Upon the success of our proposal, we plan to undertake the following fundraising activities to secure matching funds:

- Launch targeted campaigns to donors of King Library and H&A, faculty and emeritus faculty and community members (See 8: Letters of Support);
- Leverage the Challenge Grant to broaden our support from existing and new foundations and corporations with assistance from SJSU's Corporate and Foundation Relations team;
- Collaborate with Development Directors in the other eight colleges to expand the donor base for the Challenge Grant since the DH Center will serve the entire SJSU campus;
- Work with the SJSU's Strategic Communication and Advancement teams to feature the proposed DH Center on SJSU's main and giving pages as a part of Transformation 2030 to drive university-wide support for the Challenge Grant; and
- Implement online campaigns (e.g. crowdfunding) to build broad community support.

We will measure the success of our fundraising activities by the number of multi-year gifts secured and the number of new donors and supporters we have engaged for the Challenge Grant. We are confident we will be able to fulfill the matching requirement based on our previous NEH Challenge Grant experience, and the enthusiasm for the DH Center at SJSU to reapply in 2020.

2. Budget Justification

Year	Total NEH Funds Requested:	Total non-Federal Gifts:	Total:
Year 1	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$150,000
Year 2	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
Year 3	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
Year 4	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
Year 5	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
Total	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$750,000

Capital Expenditure Costs

This NEH Challenge Grant covers capital expenditures for a proposed Digital Humanities (DH) Center. Costs associated with the DH Center include equipment purchases and installation and technology upgrades. As a part of the NEH Challenge Grant program, we will raise and match the requested \$375,000 one-to-one over a five-year period for a total of \$750,000.

In particular, the Challenge Grant will support the purchase of furniture that includes 15 collaborative work tables, 60 chairs, and 8 whiteboards; 3 large PC screens for consultation spaces; 30 laptops; one high-end scanner; and two 135" wall screens. Equipment will be purchased over the five years of the grant. Technology upgrades will take place during year two of the grant and include the purchase and installation of a virtual machine (VM) and computing node to expand the current digital infrastructure.

Personnel

No salary is requested.

Indirect costs

No indirect costs; NEH does not allow indirect costs for the purchase, construction, restoration, or renovation of facilities and historic landscapes as is this project.

Total NEH Funds Requested: \$375,000

Total Non-Federal Gifts (1:1 match): \$375,000

Total Project Cost: \$750,000

Planned Expenditures (Direct Costs):**Renovations***

Electrical, lighting and painting	
Construction (partitions, cubicles)	
Demolition and removal	
Architecture and engineering fees	
Project inspection fees	
Furniture (tables, chairs, whiteboards) / installation	\$90,000

Technology Infrastructure

Virtual Machine (VM)	\$50,000
Computing Node for Computing System	\$30,000
3 Large-screen PCs for Consultation	\$25,000
2 135" Touch Collaboration Screens @\$250K each	\$500,000
30 Laptops for Classes @ \$1,500 each	\$45,000
1 High-end scanner	\$10,000

Total Direct Costs	\$750,000
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Five- Year Details Expenditures for *Grounding the Digital Humanities at San José State University***Planned Expenditures (Direct Costs):****Renovations***

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Electrical, lighting and painting					
Construction (partitions, cubicles)					
Demolition and removal					
Architecture and engineering fees					
Project inspection fees					
Furniture (tables, chairs, whiteboards) / installation	\$90,000				

Digital infrastructure

Virtual Machine (VM)	\$50,000				
Computing Node for Computing System	\$30,000				
3 Large-screen PC for Consultation			\$25,000		
2 135" Touch Collaboration Screens @\$250K each				\$250,000	\$250,000
30 Laptops for Classes @ \$1,500 each			\$45,000		
1 High-end scanner			\$10,000		

Total Direct Costs	\$90,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
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BUDGET INFORMATION - Construction Programs

NOTE: Certain Federal assistance programs require additional computations to arrive at the Federal share of project costs eligible for participation. If such is the case, you will be notified.

COST CLASSIFICATION	a. Total Cost	b. Costs Not Allowable for Participation	c. Total Allowable Costs (Columns a-b)
1. Administrative and legal expenses	\$	\$	\$
2. Land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc.	\$	\$	\$
3. Relocation expenses and payments	\$	\$	\$
4. Architectural and engineering fees	\$	\$	\$
5. Other architectural and engineering fees	\$	\$	\$
6. Project inspection fees	\$	\$	\$
7. Site work	\$	\$	\$
8. Demolition and removal	\$	\$	\$
9. Construction	\$	\$	\$
10. Equipment	\$ 750,000.00	\$	\$ 750,000.00
11. Miscellaneous	\$	\$	\$
12. SUBTOTAL (sum of lines 1-11)	\$ 750,000.00	\$	\$ 750,000.00
13. Contingencies	\$	\$	\$
14. SUBTOTAL	\$ 750,000.00	\$	\$ 750,000.00
15. Project (program) income	\$	\$	\$
16. TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (subtract #15 from #14)	\$ 750,000.00	\$	\$ 750,000.00
FEDERAL FUNDING			
17. Federal assistance requested, calculate as follows: (Consult Federal agency for Federal percentage share.) Enter the resulting Federal share.	Enter eligible costs from line 16c Multiply X <u>50</u> %		\$ 375,000.00