

2019

Center for Humanities & the Arts
Annual Report

University of Colorado Boulder

2020





A Letter From the CHA Director

Dear CHA Supporter,

2019-20 is an academic year of firsts for me—and I'm sure for you as well. The obvious, COVID-19 and dealing with life in the midst of a global pandemic, defies description. Or perhaps more accurately, I'm not sure I have anything to say that would be profound or original since I, along with you, am trying to cope as best I can with the uncertainty, anxiety, and stress of our current reality. So let me pivot to some other firsts.

This was my first time spending more than a week in Colorado, experiencing a Boulder county winter, and hiking in the Flatiron mountains. 2019-20 was also my first time directing a humanities and arts center. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to direct the CHA and to introduce some firsts to the center, such as our first custom tea blend, CHA Awake and CHA Relax, compliments of [Ku Cha House of Tea](#). On the pages that follow you can see the programs and events we hosted on (and off) campus, as well as the on-line programs and events we created when COVID-19 sent us working from home, which you can find on our [Coping with COVID-19](#) tab.

Looking ahead to 2020-21 we want to continue some of the on-line resources and programming that we began when the pandemic changed the way we live our lives. We're also planning to host webinars and workshops highlighting the vibrancy of the arts and humanities, especially ones that are topical such as the politics of the November 2020 elections and the necessity of addressing systemic racism, particularly the anti-Black racism that [demands us to say](#) loudly and assertively that Black Lives Matter. And we will continue the work that CHA has been known for: providing [graduate student awards](#), [small grants](#), and [faculty fellowships](#).

I don't know what the future holds for us, but life with COVID-19 has shown me that now, more than ever, we need humanities and the arts. With your support, the CHA will strive to make arts and humanities central to how we live, survive, and thrive.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ho
Director, Center for Humanities & the Arts
Eaton Professor of Humanities and Arts
Professor, Ethnic Studies
University of Colorado Boulder



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Tiffany Beechy

Associate Professor, English

Faculty Director, PhD Consortium in Literatures and Languages

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Program and Events Coordinator, 2018-2020

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Program and Events Coordinator

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External Advisory Board

Alexander (Sandy) Bracken

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The CHA is housed under the umbrella of the Graduate School and is supported by the Dean of the Graduate School E. Scott Adler, Director of Budget and Finance Maizy Faithfull, and Director of Development Micah Abram.

Faculty Fellowships

CHA's Faculty Fellowship program offers faculty in the arts and humanities opportunities to work on artistic or humanistic projects through a two-course release. Faculty immerse themselves in projects, often seeing them to completion by the end of their fellowship. Monthly meetings to connect faculty and share strategies for writing and making work during this critical productivity period are forthcoming.

2019-2020 Faculty Fellows

[Betsey Biggs](#), Critical Media Practices

[Emily Harrington](#), English

[Sarah James](#), Classics

[Ramesh Mallipeddi](#), English

[Kelly Sears](#), Cinema Studies

[Evelyn Shih](#), Asian Languages and Civilizations

[Brian Valente-Quinn](#), French & Italian



Upcoming 2020-2021 Fellows

[Aun Ali](#), Religious Studies

[Thomas Andrews](#), History

[Cheryl Higashida](#), English

[Javier Krauel](#), Spanish and Portuguese

[Rahul Parson](#), Asian Languages and Civilizations

[Lauren Stone](#), German & Slavic Languages & Literatures

[Stephanie Su](#), Art and Art History

[Levi Thompson](#), Asian Languages and Civilizations

Graduate Opportunities

Graduate Fellowships and Eaton Travel Grants

The Center for Humanities & the Arts provides campus-wide fellowships and highly competitive travel grants for graduate students working in the humanities and the arts. These fellowships and grants are used to recruit incoming students, provide support in completing doctoral dissertations, and aid in scholarly research by providing summer stipends and travel to conferences where they will present a paper or, for those in the arts, perform or display their work.

2019-2020 Fellows and Grant Awardees

Incoming Student Fellowship

Lauren Arnold, English
Crystal Murphy, History
Letian Wang, Asian Languages and Civilizations

Devaney Two-year Fellowship

Daniel Carr, Philosophy
Isabel Smith-Bernstein, Theatre
Cate Costley, History

Dissertation Fellowship

Jillian Bjerke, History
Jocelyn Franklin, French & Italian

CHA Summer Fellowship

Patrick Chandler, Environmental Studies
Molly Ott, Art and Art History
Micaela Cruce, History
Alexandra Lloyd, Philosophy

Eaton Travel Grant

Jasmine Baetz, Art and Art History
Chris Dunn, Environmental Sciences
Kristen Holleyman, Dance
Megan Madorin, Dance
Sarah Mauney, Dance
Toma Peiu, Critical Media Practices
Graeme Pente, History
Sierra Schiano, Classics
Wenfei Wang, Asian Languages and Civilizations
Alexander Wolfroot, Philosophy

As most (if not all) of my fellow graduate students will tell you, imposter syndrome is something that hits us hard in our first year; confidence in my research, writing, and studies is something I have regrettably lacked.

This fellowship really has made me feel that someone believes in me and that I belong at this university.

In light of my teaching load and commitments outside of academia, had I not received the CHA Fellowship, it would have taken me at least another year, possibly two, to complete my dissertation.

Consortium

The Consortium for PhD students in Languages and Literatures in the College of Arts & Sciences began as a means to financially support PhD language and literature students and has morphed into an intellectual consortium that supports all students interested and invested in humanities research. Under the leadership of Dr. Tiffany Beechy, the three cohorts of Consortium students engage in intellectual and professional discussions and prepare for careers that utilize their PhD in Languages and Literatures.

[Stefan Bongers](#)

[Blake DeLong](#)

[Andrew Escanuela](#)

[Juan Manuel Garcia Fernandez](#)

[Devon Keyes](#)

[Xinchang Li](#)

[Emily Martin](#)

[Flo Réthoré](#)

[Michael Schrimper](#)

[Mikhail Skovoronskikh](#)

[Sandra Ortiz Valencia](#)

[Zeyi Zhang](#)

Coping With COVID-19

When the global pandemic sent much of the CU Boulder community online, we created the [Coping with COVID-19 tab](#) to collect resources we hope will help our community with information, education, and inspiration.

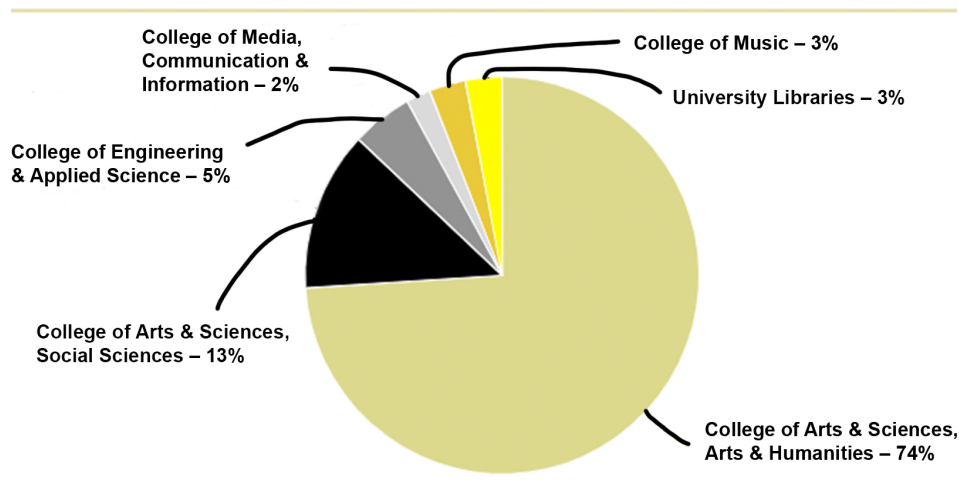
As we wait and hope, I realize the power of Hope to transform feelings, even amidst pandemics. Continuing the work, with virtuous leaders informed by science, history and justice, there can be hope that together we will alter the realities underlying these pandemic inequities and inequitable pandemics. - Donna Axel, RIO

We hosted virtual events such as [Monday Movie Nights](#)—where the CHA director watched a movie along with a guest, and each used the CHA Facebook page to livestream comments about the films—and a [virtual book club](#), joined by our friends at the [University of Miami Center for the Humanities](#), where both communities read Ross Gay’s *The Book of Delights*. We sponsored a contest for CU Boulder students, staff, and faculty to produce works of art and humanities responding to COVID-19 as [Shelter Projects](#) (and we’ll be displaying these on-line in the fall), and we have an on-going series, [Pandemic Posts](#), where we invite our community to share their reflections on life during COVID-19.

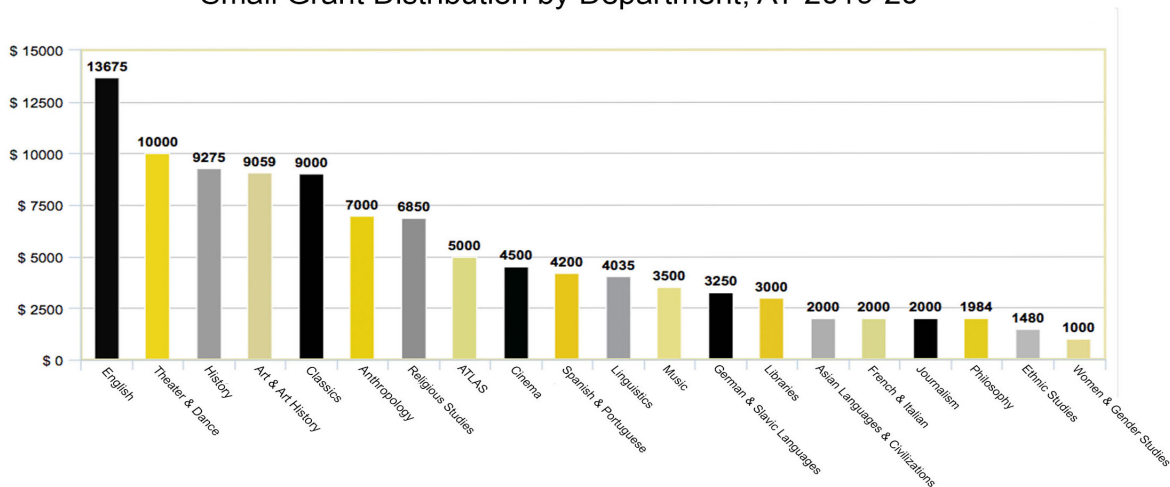
Small Grants

The [CHA Small Grant program](#) provides up to \$3,000 for CU Boulder faculty to deepen and enrich the range of humanistic and artistic activities on campus and enhance faculty scholarship. During 2019-2020, the CHA Faculty Steering Committee recommended awarding a total of \$102,808 to fund 52 projects supporting research, creative work, special events, and presentations by visiting scholars and artists.

Small Grant Distribution by College, AY 2019-20



Small Grant Distribution by Department, AY 2019-20



Hazel Barnes Flat

The [Hazel Barnes Flat](#) in the heart of London is a gift to scholars in the humanities and arts made by Hazel Barnes, the much-admired Professor of Philosophy at CU Boulder and founder of the Interdisciplinary Program in the Humanities. Since 2010, the flat has provided opportunities to conduct scholarly research in and around London to CU Boulder faculty and graduate students. Management of the flat has been entrusted to the CHA since its inception.



Traveling to London to examine these significant archival documents was crucial to my research and would have been financially unfeasible if not for the Hazel Barnes Flat. –Faculty, History



I had a productive research trip and examined valuable sources for my dissertation thanks to my stay in the Hazel Barnes Flat, and I am extremely grateful to have had such an opportunity. – PhD Candidate, English

169

unique visitors to the flat

71%

faculty visitors

24%

graduate students

5%

other

Climate Change and Humanities & the Arts Grant

The CHA believes we need artists and humanists as much as we need scientists to find sustainable solutions that address global climate change. We funded [four interdisciplinary proposals](#) at \$5,000 each – all with a public outreach component. Congratulations to the following awardees:

INTO A CHANGED ARCTIC - The science of climate change revealed

Erin Espelie, Cinema Studies & Moving Image Arts & Critical Media Practices

Kerry Koepping, Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR)

Merritt Turetsky, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

The Social Consequences of Climate Change and Migration among Indigenous Communities

Tiara Na'puti, Communications

Adrian Shin, Political Science

Michelle Benedum, Political Science

Swallowed Whole: A Bird's Eye View of Interspecies Friendship and Survivability

Beth Osnes, Theatre & Dance

Rebecca Safran, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Big Picture Climate Change Series

Peter Wood, History

Susan Kent, Religious Studies

EVENTS



Tea Talks

CHA's partnership with [Ku Cha House of Tea](#) featured CU Boulder faculty, Dr. William Wei giving a 20-minute public talk followed by a 40-minute Q&A about the history of Asians in Colorado. Tea and pastries from Ku Cha were included. The event was free and open to the public.



Faculty Celebration

CHA's inaugural faculty celebration event recognized and celebrated 29 2019 book publications and productions of major works by CU Boulder faculty in the arts and humanities. The successful event was catered by [Savory Cuisines](#).



Difficult Dialogues

This new series featured a panel of specialists who shared how they talk about race, especially focusing on how to talk about race in and out of the classroom and how to respond to issues of racism when they impact our campus community.



CHA–Leadership Education for Advancement and Promotion (LEAP) Reading Group

This series for CU Boulder women faculty met once a month in the CHA office in Macky Auditorium to discuss pre-selected texts. Tea and cookies were provided and space was limited to 20 participants per session.





The Center for Humanities & the Arts fosters community, supports collaborations, and inspires creativity and research while promoting equity, inclusion, and academic excellence.

A special thanks to our 2019-2020 donors:

Mr. and Mrs. Blatchford
Mr. Peter D. Spear
Mr. Thien Tran

A special acknowledgement to:

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University of Colorado U.K. Foundation Ltd.

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Strategic Projects

Rong Pan and Qin Liu, co-owners of
Ku Cha House of Tea

Staff of Macky Auditorium