



About the MCLA Institute for Arts and Humanities

The MCLA Institute for the Arts and Humanities (MCLA-IAH) is a grant-funded initiative, supported by the [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#), which works to strategically promote equity-centered change on campus and in the community by (1) expanding access to area arts and humanities resources, (2) catalyzing opportunities for interdisciplinary engagements, and (3) advancing experiential teaching and learning practices in higher education.

MCLA-IAH Student Advisory Board (IAH-SAB)

The MCLA-IAH Student Advisory Board is a committee of students with an interest in engaging the arts to promote Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) on campus and in the community. Already, the Institute aims to engage students in its mission by inspiring active participation in events and resources. However, MCLA-IAH also recognizes that appealing to students' needs and wants from an institutional standpoint can fall out of focus without their voices in the mix. In an effort to engage students more thoroughly in the IAH mission and make steps towards further curating programming to their needs, we want to include student voices in MCLA-IAH planning, design, execution, and evaluation of select student-focused events and programming.

At MCLA-IAH, there are three major facets of programming: (1) student mini-grants, (2) faculty fellowships, and (3) community partnerships and engagements. Each of these systems is well established, yet ever-forming and adapting to the cultural landscape of the Berkshires and larger climate. Student perspectives on these programs will allow MCLA-IAH initiatives to respond to community needs. In turn, student participation will allow the Institute to tailor quality opportunities and resources to address the needs and interests of MCLA students.

IAH-SAB Application Process

To apply for the Fall 2021 IAH Student Advisory Board, please review the program requirements and submit a cover letter and resume to Brianna Christie (bc3655@mcla.edu) and CC Erica Barreto (erica.barreto@mcla.edu) with the subject line "IAH-SAB Application".

Early Action Application Deadline: Monday, September 6, 2021 @ 11:59PM EST.

Rolling Application Deadline: September 7, 2021 - Friday, October 1, 2021 @ 11:59PM EST.

Students will be informed of their application status within 1-week of the deadline.

MISSED THE DEADLINE?

If you are still interested in being on the committee, but missed the deadline, email Brianna Christie (bc3655@mcla.edu) to see how you can get involved.

IAH-SAB Program Opportunities & Perks (2021)

- Have a direct impact on the opportunities, resources, and programming MCLA-IAH provides to the MCLA community, including MCLA students
- Form connections with Berkshires arts and cultural leaders through MCLA-IAH engagements, events, and programs
- List MCLA-IAH as a resume credit
- Access to MCLA-IAH resources and materials for review prior to official release
- Press in the MCLA-IAH e-newsletter to include in student portfolios

IAH-SAB Program Requirements & Expectations (2021)

- Students will meet once a month (via Zoom) with MCLA-IAH Interns to discuss current MCLA-IAH programs (Meeting dates TBD - based on overall advisory board availability)
- Students will brainstorm potential MCLA-IAH programming opportunities and relay these to the MCLA-IAH team in SAB meetings
- Students will meet at the end of the semester with the MCLA-IAH team to discuss final findings, share perspectives, and contribute to future programming & planning
- Students will be transparent and sensitive to our process of creating courageous spaces for anti-racist education, dialogue, and action
- Students will attend at least three (3) MCLA-IAH sponsored events to provide evidential critique and evaluation of programs
- Students will subscribe to the MCLA-IAH e-newsletter and keep up with MCLA-IAH social media to report constructive critique on how to optimize these resources
- Students will document, reflect, and report back on their program experience
- Students will complete a final, written evaluation report based on IAH programs, resources, and events at the end of the semester (specific criteria and evaluation expectations to be outlined later in the semester)

IAH-SAB Cover Letter Guidelines

When writing your letter of interest, please consider the following questions:

- Why are you interested in this opportunity? *How does this program experience align with and/or advance your own commitment to building experiential spaces for education, dialogue, and action?*
- What do you hope to gain from this advisory board experience?
- What skills, tools, and strategies can you share with MCLA-IAH?
- Are there any scheduling concerns, restrictions, or other conflicts we should know that could limit your participation in the IAH-SAB?

Questions? Please do not hesitate to contact any of the following members of our team:

Erica Barreto | IAH Coordinator (erica.barreto@mcla.edu)

Brianna Christie | Communications & Engagement Manager (bc3655@mcla.edu)