



RUBIN
MUSEUM
OF ART

Baruch
COLLEGE

THE BARUCH COLLEGE-RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART PROJECT
FACULTY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS FOR
INTEGRATING ARTS INTO THE CURRICULUM
Summer 2013

Introduction

The Baruch College-Rubin Museum of Art Project (“the Project”) aims to strengthen students’ introduction to the arts through the integration of various arts topics, ideas and experiences throughout the curricula of Baruch College and other CUNY campuses. The Project recognizes the important role that arts play in enhancing students’ development by rethinking how and what we teach. There is increasing evidence that the exposure to and engagement in the arts activate right brain activity so essential to the demands of an information based economy. Many of the “right-brain” skills, such as critical thinking, are essential for individuals to be effective participants in our democratic society. As studies have shown, exposure to the arts and humanities improves students’ critical thinking skills, broadens their ability to think strategically and helps to balance the conflicting goals of increasing personal wealth versus improving society.

Academic research and professional development programs implemented between large American universities and large corporations¹ reveal that the arts and humanities broaden peoples’ understanding and view of life and make them more flexible in their approach to addressing complex situations. In the AAC&U report² referenced below it is observed that “*In an economy fueled by innovation, the capabilities developed through a liberal arts education have become America’s most valuable economic assets*” In addition, the report points out that “*using a business rather than academic vocabulary employers are urging more – and better – liberal education, not less.*”

We live in a time when we must think globally. Innovation and globalization have become the keywords of the 21st century, placing increased importance on the development of a trained workforce able to effectively operate in a rapidly changing world, driven by decision-making under uncertainty.

Since its inception in 2010, The Baruch College – Rubin Museum of Art Project has pursued innovative approaches to enriching students’ college experiences and greatly enhancing their ability to learn, understand and function throughout their lives through exposure to the arts. The Project has created opportunities for students to explore who they are and what they can become by introducing them to the art, culture, and sacred traditions of the peoples of the Himalayan Region through its collaborative partnership with the Rubin Museum of Art. The Project encourages innovation in educational experiences by providing financial incentives for faculty to enrich students’ experiences by creatively integrating arts across the curriculum to help students



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develop the skills required to be successful in today's increasingly interconnected and interdependent world.

At a recent conference organized by Baruch College and the Rubin Museum of Art, a broad range of ideas for integrating the arts throughout college and university curricula were shared. One of the common themes which emerged as a result of the discussions that took place at the conference was the need for assessing the impact and effectiveness of these programs.

Planning Grants-Summer 2013

The Project is interested in encouraging faculty to rethink how they teach undergraduates by integrating materials and experiences drawing upon the arts into existing courses or new courses. The Project is offering to fund up to ten (10) faculty during the summer of 2013 to develop innovative proposals for how to achieve the Project's goals described above. The average grant will be \$1,500 to be paid in three equal installments. Faculty will be expected to produce a written proposal suggesting how they would augment their course(s) to make arts an integral part of students' educational experiences. Included in the student experience should be at least one class visit to the Rubin Museum of Art. The final reports for the funded projects will be due by the end of August 2013. Faculty selected will have full access to the Rubin Museum and members of its Education Department staff.

Special consideration will be given to proposals that focus on methodology for assessing the impact of exposure to the arts on students' development of critical thinking and problem solving skills, empathy, and ability to deal with uncertainty to name a few. Deliverables can consist of proposed rubrics or other instruments that can be used to assess student development or may consist of a review of the applicable assessment literature identifying methodologies that can be adapted for use by the Project. All materials produced as part of this Project will be treated as open source and available for other scholars to use to enhance their students' development and experiences. Faculty interested in receiving summer grants can submit their final proposal as part of their application package to the Baruch-Rubin Faculty Fellows Program no later than June 21, 2013.

Applying For Summer Grant:

To apply for a summer grant, submit a written proposal explaining what you hope to accomplish if awarded the grant and how you anticipate positively impacting student learning and the educational experience. Beginning May 31, 2013 the review of proposals will begin and awards made for as long as funds are available.



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Baruch-Rubin Faculty Fellows-Academic Year 2013-14

The Baruch College-Rubin Museum of Art Project will fund a fourth round of Baruch-Rubin Faculty Fellows for the academic year 2013-14. At this time it appears that five faculty from CUNY campuses with institutional membership with the Rubin Museum of Art will be able to serve as Baruch College-Rubin Museum Faculty Fellows with grant support of \$5,000 per Fellow. These funds can be used to cover professional conference expenses, hire student research support, arrange release time³ or supplement the Fellow's salary. Faculty interested in applying are required to submit a proposal explaining how they will use the funds to enhance students' educational experiences through increased exposure to the arts. Making at least one (if not more) class visits to the Rubin Museum must be part of the proposal. More information will become available in July 2013 on how to apply to be a Baruch-Rubin Faculty Fellow. Faculty interested in becoming a Baruch-Rubin Faculty Fellow or who would like additional information on the program should contact Gaurav (Mike) Bawa at gaurav.bawa@baruch.cuny.edu.

NOTES

1. "Bell Telephone's Experiment in Education", *E. Digby Baltzell, Harper's Magazine March 1955*. Also The Learning Knights of Bell Telephone, Wes Davis, NY Times June 15, 2010
2. "College Learning for the New Global Century" a report by the National Leadership Council for the Liberal Arts & America's Promise, Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), 2007. Also see Current Research in Arts Education: An Arts In Education Research Compendium, California Arts Council 2001
3. Arrangements for release time are handled differently across the college. Faculty are responsible to work out details for release time with appropriate individuals in their department and school.