

STRC Faculty Professional Development Fellowship Call and Application Guidelines

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

DePaul's **Social Transformation Research Collaborative (STRC)** seeks applications for its **short-term Professional Development Fellowship**.

Established with generous funding from the Mellon Foundation for the Humanities, the STRC represents a community of faculty and students whose scholarship explores how the humanities can serve as a source of justice and healing for communities historically shaped by, and continuously facing, racism, violence, and dispossession.

Purpose and Objectives

The project has several goals, among them to invest in the professional development of College of LAS Humanities faculty who are in a position to help diversify the academy, notably those whose scholarship engages the history and/or culture of people of color (in the United States or in diaspora); to create a scholarly community in the humanities, focused on issues related to the histories and cultures of people of color, that will bring together students, faculty, and community members; and to build a public-facing repository of new scholarship, research, and creative work around themes that illuminate cultural resiliency, restoration, anti-violence, and healing within communities of color.

Fellowship Description

In 2026, the STRC will award a Professional Development Fellowship for tenure-line faculty in the College of LAS who are working on subjects related to populations of color and who need time and space to learn new methods, content, and approaches outside their discipline to bolster the interdisciplinary reach of their scholarship and teaching. In keeping with the mission of the STRC, proposals should advance interdisciplinary humanities as tools for addressing the histories and contemporary structures of racism through healing, restoration, and social transformation. Faculty in the Humanities are particularly encouraged to apply, but faculty outside the Humanities, who wish to incorporate Humanities methods, content and approaches into their scholarship or teaching, are also eligible to apply.

The fellowship will begin in July 2026 and continue through December 2026. The fellow will receive a stipend equivalent to one month of summer salary in July and August. (Please be advised that no faculty member can earn more than two units of summer salary, in total.)¹ The fellow will also receive paid leave from all teaching and service responsibilities in Autumn Quarter 2026.

The fellow will be expected to attend quarterly gatherings of the STRC, including the Autumn Quarter Symposium.

¹ If you have any questions about how your summer units add up, please direct them to Susanna Pagliaro in the Dean's Office.

They will be encouraged to see themselves as members of the STRC’s intellectual community and invited to contribute to the Collaborative’s discourse around the humanities as tools for addressing the histories and contemporary structures of racism through healing, restoration, and social transformation. The Collaborative will seek to highlight and amplify the intellectual activity of the Fellow on its website and in its public repository of work produced by members of the STRC.

Application Timeline

The application timeline is outlined below. Interested faculty should review the FAQ. Please direct questions to the directors of the STRC, Julie Moody-Freeman (jmoodyfr@depaul.edu) and Bill Johnson González (bjohns58@depaul.edu).

Call for Proposal & Application Guidelines posted	Feb 2, 2026
Online Application opens	Feb 2, 2026
Online Application closes	Mar 30, 2026
Award Notifications	Apr 9, 2026

Eligibility

Tenure-line faculty working in the humanities whose primary scholarly or creative field engages the histories and/or cultures of people of color (in the United States or in diaspora), are eligible to apply. Non-humanities faculty who wish to learn how to incorporate Humanities methods, content, and approaches into their scholarship and teaching, are also eligible. The STRC will favorably consider any applicant’s record of research, teaching and service that includes diverse backgrounds, experiences, races, ethnicities, genders and perspectives. Faculty whose teaching and service have contributed in direct ways to the units comprising the STRC will receive priority consideration upon demonstrating an excellent proposal.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

A complete application requires the following items, each of which is described in detail below.

1. Completed Online Application Form
2. Letter of Support from Chair/Program Director
3. Project Title and Abstract
4. Professional Development Project Description
5. Plan of Work & Timeline
6. Basic Bibliography related to Project
7. List of Recent Activities
8. Letter of Support from Community Partner (if applicable)
9. Statement of Contributions to the Core STRC Units
10. Curriculum Vitae

1. Completed Online Application Form

The [online application](#) must be submitted between the application's opening date (Feb 2, 2026) and closing date (Mar 30, 2026 at 11:59 pm).

2. Letter of Support from Chair/Program Director

The application must be supported by a confidential letter of support from the faculty member's Chair/Program Director (the person who writes one's annual review). Provide the name and DePaul email address of the Chair/Program Director in the unit information section of the application. The online application system will then invite the faculty member's Chair/Program Director to upload the letter of support directly to the application file.

The letter of support should address the following:

- a. Please comment on the value and significance of the applicant's proposal.
- b. Do you support awarding this individual? Why or why not?
- c. Please indicate how the course release in Autumn Quarter will impact the instructional needs of your unit and outline any plans you have to address that need.

Letters of support are due one week after the application deadline. *Applicants are very strongly encouraged to alert their chair or director early in the process of their intent to apply for a quarter of paid leave through a STRC Fellowship.*

NOTE:

If applicant is currently serving as a Chair or Director, the letter of support should be written by the Dean of the College.

Recommendation letters and endorsements may be uploaded by the Chair/Program Director directly **by 11:59 pm on Apr 1, 2026**. All letters and endorsements are confidential and will not be shared with applicants.

3. Project Title and Abstract

This is a summary of the project and objectives in non-technical terms understandable to the general public. If funded, this summary will be used to announce your project and will appear in other public-facing online spaces of the STRC. Not to exceed 250 words, double spaced.

4. Project Description

Your project description should be no longer than 750 words (double-spaced, 12-point font) and do the following:

- a. Describe and explain your current field of study or area of expertise, and explain why you are seeking to develop new skills and expertise in a new field of study. What is the significance of this project for your professional ambitions, your teaching, and/or the field in which you are working?
- b. Clearly and specifically identify the new methods, content and/or approaches you seek to learn during the fellowship, being sure to explain the relationship of this professional development activity to your current body of work, teaching, and/or planned new work or pedagogy.
- c. Clearly and specifically identify how you will pursue this professional development project—what materials and/or activities will allow you to achieve your goals?
- d. If your project involves a community partner, describe the existing relationship between you and that organization, the origins of your collaboration, and how your collaboration with the organization will benefit you and the community partner, and/or the public they serve.
- e. Describe how your professional development project aligns with the goals of the STRC to advance interdisciplinary humanities as tools for addressing the histories and contemporary structures of racism through healing, restoration, and social transformation.

5. Short Project Bibliography

List the key texts and other sources central to your project, not to exceed one page, single-spaced.

6. Timeline

Provide a project timeline that outlines key benchmarks of your project and the progress you expect to make toward them during the fellowship period. One page, single-spaced.

7. List of Recent Activities

Include recent scholarly activities, publications, and other activities/research related to the proposed project. Not to exceed one page, double-spaced.

8. Letter of Support from Community Partner (if applicable)

This letter should describe the existing relationship between you and the community partner organization, the origins of the project, and how it will benefit the partner organization and/or the public they serve.

9. Statement on Contributions to the Core Units of the STRC

Please describe, in both qualitative and quantitative terms, your contributions to the work of the core academic units of the STRC (ABD, LALS, CES, GLAS, CBD, and CLR). This is the place to elaborate on the types and scope of your service, teaching, and/or administrative

roles within the units while you have been at DePaul. Not to exceed 500 words, double-spaced.

10. Curriculum Vitae

Submit a full CV that includes pedagogical and service roles at DePaul in addition to your scholarly record.

CRITERIA BY WHICH PROPOSALS WILL BE EVALUATED

In order to be considered complete, applications must include all required documents by the posted deadline.

In the **first stage of review**, all applications will be reviewed anonymously by the STRC Steering Committee according to the following criteria:

1. **QUALITY:** Is the proposal clear and coherent, avoiding unexplained references and disciplinary nomenclature that may limit understanding by non-experts? Is the proposal organized well, with clear objectives, expected outcomes, and limited jargon?
2. **SCOPE AND FEASIBILITY:** Does the proposal persuasively connect the professional development project to the faculty member's previous scholarly, creative, and/or pedagogical endeavors? Does the proposal explain how the proposed activity will build on or develop a new area of scholarly or pedagogical expertise? Does the proposal convincingly demonstrate that the proposed activities (including those involving community organizations) will allow the faculty member to meet the stated goals of the project within the project timeline?
3. **RELEVANCE:** Does the proposed professional development project align with the goals of the STRC to employ the humanities to advance interdisciplinary humanities as tools for addressing the histories and contemporary structures of racism through healing, restoration, and social transformation?
4. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Does the proposed project convincingly explain the significance of learning new methods, skills, and approaches for the faculty member's professional ambitions, teaching, and/or academic field?

The review committee will develop a short list of proposals demonstrating excellence according to the above criteria, at which point, a **second non-anonymized stage of review will take place**. During this stage, the committee will review candidate CV's and Statements on Contributions to the Core Units in order to ensure that short-listed faculty whose teaching and service have contributed in direct ways to the units comprising the STRC will receive priority consideration in the final award decision. Final awards will be reviewed and approved by the Dean of LAS.

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

As a condition of accepting the award, Fellows will commit to:

1. maintaining their employment at DePaul University for a minimum of one year after the end of their grant;
2. participating in STRC's annual Summer Institute for incoming students in the summer following their leave;
3. participating in the STRC Autumn Quarter Symposium;
4. providing to the STRC a written report of no more than 500 words describing the outcomes of the professional development, along with copies of any new course assignments, syllabi, or work in progress developed during the fellowship, for placement in the STRC's online archive in Via Sapientiae. Selected materials may appear on the public-facing STRC website, with author permission.