Bicentennial Activity Grants
Request for Proposals

1. **Background**

We are seeking projects and activities that will explore Bicentennial themes and contribute to the work and play of the Bicentennial year.

a. **Bicentennial Themes**

What is it to be the University of Michigan? The U-M story is that of an institution and community of faculty, staff and students inventing and regularly re-inventing itself and — in the process — shaping the American university and the modern order of knowledge. For two hundred years, Michigan has wrestled with defining issues of higher education, pursuit of knowledge, and formation of academic community — often succeeding, sometimes failing, always, we hope, learning. Today, with higher education again in a phase of significant transition, we seek to understand what it is that we should be as a community and an institution. The themes below outline key areas in which such issues have played out in the past and are playing out now. We might argue that no other institution so fully embraces these themes. Through the Bicentennial Activity Grants, we seek to illuminate and celebrate these themes for our past, present, and future:

- **Serving the People: The Public University** — For 200 years and in partnership with the public, the University of Michigan has created and re-created the American public university, with a principled dedication to education as a democratizing endeavor, to broad and equal access, and to advancement of knowledge and creativity in service to society. The struggle to define and capture the public ideal is a continuing story of American higher education, and Michigan has been in the vanguard. Michigan has upheld the standard of the American university as a place of inquiry and expression that serves a democratic public. “Education,” said Michigan’s first president, Henry Philip Tappan, “levels all artificial distinctions, and creates only that aristocracy which all men acknowledge … the aristocracy of intellectual and moral worth.”

- **Pursuing Ideas: The Research University** — Beginning with an observatory on a hill, Michigan was one of the pioneering intellectual powerhouses that shaped the landscape of learning and defined the American university as one dedicated to knowledge, technological development, and creativity. Intellectual pursuits and scientific inquiry have been at the forefront and without borders, driven by the desire to improve the quality of life. The University has been a leader in global research and technology: from
transmitting inherited culture and advancing knowledge and truth, to sharing the human endeavor of science and delivering potent treatments and cures.

- **Creating and Inventing: The Creative University** — With its early establishment of engineering and embrace of the arts U-M has long upheld creativity and invention as core endeavors. The making of both the useful and the beautiful occurs throughout the campus and the world. Applied science and the study of complex systems of all sorts help advance society’s well-being; Whether ethereal or practical, the intellectual activities of the University shape, and are shaped by, intriguing sights, sounds, language and technologies that have the power to inspire, transform and heal.

- **Teaching Powerfully: The Intellectual University** — From early, experimental curricula in the 19th century to the emergence of professional schools in the early 20th century to 1960s teach-ins, and more recently field courses, unique research opportunities, engaged learning and international experiences, the University values itself as a place where students can “burrow in” and “broaden out” — a vital combination. The teaching environment bristles with difficult questions, unique ideas and diverse viewpoints, shared by faculty and students alike and all contributing to unparalleled academic excellence. The Michigan ethos, evoked by President James Burrill Angell, is an uncommon education for the common person.

- **Challenging Society: The Activist University** — Michigan has a heritage of activism of many forms: protest, global engagement, political action, public service, legal pursuits, philanthropy. Students, staff and faculty have long engaged with issues of social justice, both on and off campus, toward the betterment of communities. Their actions are grounded by the University’s commitments to academic freedom, free speech, and the idea that the university is one of society’s primary sites for critical self-reflection.

- **Forever Hailing: The Spirited University** — The spirit of Michigan is both intangible and palpable and has been since students first converged on campus. Both the energy of youth and the pride of alumni infuse the classrooms, athletic venues and performance halls, the Diag and beyond. Regardless of the decade or location, spirit is expressed in many ways, be it philanthropy and fandom or service and community. With an alumni chapter on the moon and supporters across the globe, Michigan is universally known for its school pride.

A fuller treatment of the themes may be found at [http://bicentennial.umich.edu](http://bicentennial.umich.edu).

b. **The Bicentennial Year**

The Bicentennial will be celebrated in calendar year 2017, from January through December. While we expect activities to take place throughout the year, central
Bicentennial planning will focus on four “festivals”: in April, June, September, and October. Please see Attachment 1 for additional information.

2. **Bicentennial Activity Grants: Description, Requirements, and Criteria**

Bicentennial Activity Grants will fund creative and energetic projects that meet all of the following four criteria:

1. Advance the overall mission of the Bicentennial (Attachment 2) in a unique way.
2. Illuminate one or more of the themes outlined above, with respect to past and/or future; enhance understanding, commemoration, and celebration of cross-cutting, interdisciplinary, or University-wide issues or topics from Michigan’s past and/or action and deliberation regarding Michigan’s future on campus and in the larger world.
3. Contribute a visible, participatory, and/or fun element to one or more of the Bicentennial Festivals, as explained in Attachment 1, or add a unique event or activity to the Bicentennial celebration during 2017.
4. Reflect a broad perspective on the University, not simply the interests or activities of a particular unit or organization; promote understanding and appreciation of the diverse roots and pluralistic future of Michigan.

Special consideration will be given to projects that also:

5. Make a lasting contribution to the University of Michigan community.
6. Encourage collaboration and engage at least two University constituencies in development and implementation; proposals submitted by inter-unit or inter-organization collaborative teams are strongly encouraged and will be viewed favorably.
7. Engage multiple University constituencies as audience or beneficiary and foster excitement about and active participation in the Bicentennial.

Decisions will be based on how compelling the proposals are, as determined by the Bicentennial goals and planning principles and criteria given above; on the justifications of budget and project feasibility; and on how well the project contributes to the overall mix of activities and projects of the Bicentennial.

Projects may include symposia or seminars, research (provided there is specific output that enhances reflection on or celebration of the University in 2017), publications, events, exhibits, engagement activities, service activities, and other efforts that meet the criteria outlined above and below.

**We are particularly interested in funding symposia or other intellectual programming on the intellectual history and future of interdisciplinary research or broad disciplinary clusters at Michigan.**

**Size of Grants:** We expect to have a total budget of $300,000 for Bicentennial Activity Grants, which will be distributed at three levels.
- **Level 1 grants**: Grants under $1000. These grants will be reviewed by the Bicentennial Office.

- **Level 2 grants**: Grants from $1000 to $10,000. Proposals in this range will be reviewed by the Bicentennial Office and the Bicentennial Grants Subcommittee of the University of Michigan Bicentennial Advisory Committee.

- **Level 3 grants**: Grants greater than $10,000 and up to $30,000. Proposals at this level will also require approval of the full Bicentennial Advisory Committee.

Grants larger than $30,000 may be considered for projects of large ambition that promise to contribute in formative ways to the Bicentennial; if you are interested in discussing a larger grant, please contact Gary Krenz (gdkrenz@umich.edu).

**Cost-sharing requirement**: The Bicentennial Grant Program, at Level 2 and Level 3, will cover a maximum of 2/3 of the cost of the proposed project. It is expected that proposers will identify cost-sharing for the balance. In-kind contributions may be counted toward cost-sharing. Level 1 grants do not require cost-sharing, but applicants might be asked to seek supplemental funds.

**Submission and review schedule**: Proposals will be accepted and reviewed on the following schedule for as long as funds last. If funds remain available following the final round, additional rounds might be implemented.

Level 1 proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

The deadlines for both Level 2 and Level 3 grant proposals are:

- December 1, 2015
- January 31, 2016
- March 15, 2016
- May 1, 2016

Out-of-sequence submissions may be considered for compelling extenuating circumstances.

**Workshops**. The Bicentennial Office will organize two workshop/information sessions for discussion of Bicentennial Activity Grants, and to create opportunities for those considering submitting proposals to interface with potential collaborators. One workshop will be held in the second half of Fall 2015, a second workshop will be held in the first half of Winter 2016. Details will be forthcoming. Groups considering submitting a Level 2 or Level 3 proposal are especially encouraged to participate in a workshop.

### 3. **Eligibility**

The Bicentennial Activity Grant program is open to:
4. **How Funds May be Used**

An itemized budget with an estimated full cost of the project including any amount of funds already secured must be included with the proposal. If funds are being secured from multiple sources it should be indicated what items within the budget are to be covered by Bicentennial funds.

**Fundable activities include:**
- Payment to student, post-doc, outside consultant, or other researchers for work necessary to the project
- Visiting speaker travel, lodging, and honoraria
- Supplies and materials directly related to the project
- Publication subventions
- Rental costs for meeting space, event space, equipment, etc.
- Event and activity communications and publicity
- Travel to conferences/events where material from the project will be presented
- Performance services
- Printing of posters, banners, programs, brochures
- Preparation of displays and exhibits, including digital presentations and exhibits
- Hosting and food for activities and events, according to University and unit policies

**Non-fundable activities include:**
- Political or religious activities
- Course release
- Course development for LSA courses (please note: LSA faculty seeking funds for Bicentennial course development should apply to the LSA Theme Semester Committee, Howard Brick, chair ([hbrick@umich.edu](mailto:hbrick@umich.edu)). The Bicentennial provides matching grants to LSA theme semester grants.)
- For-profit activities
- Activities that constitute the regular daily/monthly/yearly activities of a unit, organization, laboratory, SSO/VSO, etc.
- Fundraising for unit or organization operational expenses
- Retroactive events/activities
- Travel to conferences that do not involve presentation of materials related to this project
- Travel to and from project meetings, unless by external participants
- Hosting costs for project meetings
- Membership dues
- Illegal activity

All spending must follow University of Michigan Standard Practice guidelines.

5. **Proposal Requirements**

Proposal submissions must include the following information to be considered:

1. Title
2. A 100-word abstract of the project.
3. The names and affiliations of all participants, with at least one individual, and not more than three, identified as project leader. Contact information for project leaders should be provided.
4. Project narrative, addressing the criteria outlined above, providing a proposed timeline for project planning and implementation, with a justification of the project’s feasibility and the ability of the proposers to implement it.
   a. 500 to 1500 words for Level 1 and Level 2 grants
   b. 1500 to 5000 words for Level 3 grants
5. Proposed itemized budget and budget justification with an estimated full cost of the project, including any cost-sharing funds already secured or additional funds still needed, with possible sources. *The Bicentennial will not cover more than 2/3 of project costs for Level 2 and Level 3 grants.*
6. Signatures (electronic or manual) of unit/organization head; commitment of unit cost-sharing funds.

6. **Process: proposal submission, review and selection**

Proposals should be submitted via the online application form found on the Bicentennial website: [http://bicentennial.umich.edu/resources](http://bicentennial.umich.edu/resources).

Level 1 grants will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Submission deadlines for Level 2 and Level 3 grants are:

- December 1, 2015
- March 15, 2016
- May 1, 2016

Level 1 grants will be reviewed by the Bicentennial Office. Level 2 and 3 proposals will be reviewed by the Bicentennial Grant Subcommittee of the U-M Bicentennial Advisory Committee. Level 3 grants will require authorization by the full Bicentennial Advisory Committee.

The Bicentennial Office, Grants Subcommittee, or full Bicentennial Advisory Committee may request additional information from submitters, may ask for revised
proposals, and might also identify situations in which groups are asked to explore combining projects.

Awards will be announced in as timely a manner as possible, and not longer than 6 weeks after receipt of the final version of the proposal.

7. **Award Administration and Post-Award Requirements**

The Bicentennial Office will transfer funds to the set of chartfields designated by the recipient and/or administrator. The recipient is responsible for ensuring good stewardship of funds. All applicable University policies and procedures must be followed. Overruns and unallowable expenses are the responsibility of the recipient and the unit or organization holding the grant.

Each award will stipulate an end date, based on the proposed project timeline, after which any remaining balance will be returned to the original contributing source. Extensions may be granted if justified, but prior approval must be sought. Extensions or end dates later than December 31, 2017, will not be allowed.

Recipients of funds will be expected to do the following:
1. Provide a progress report to the Bicentennial Office including an update of funds spent every 3 months.
2. Provide a summary report and finalized budget to the Bicentennial Office within 30 days of the conclusion of the project and in no case later than January 31, 2018.

Please contact Gary Krenz (gdkrenz@umich.edu) with any questions.

Additional information about the University of Michigan Bicentennial can be found at [www.bicentennial.umich.edu](http://bicentennial.umich.edu).
Attachment 1: The Bicentennial Year

The Bicentennial will be celebrated in calendar year 2017, from January through December. While we expect activities to take place throughout the year, central Bicentennial planning will focus on four “festivals”:

- June 26-27, 2017: *Michigan and the Community*
- September 22-23, 2017: *Michigan and Detroit* (in Detroit)
- October 25-28, 2017: *Reinventing the University: Michigan and the Future*

Thematicall[y the Winter Semester will emphasize Michigan’s history and the Fall Semester will emphasize Michigan’s future.

In addition, we expect key moments of the Bicentennial year to include the annual MLK Symposium; events in Grand Rapids, Lansing, New York, Chicago, California, Florida, and other key locations in the United States and globally throughout the year; the Spring and Winter Commencements. Major lectures across the institution will highlight Bicentennial issues and themes.

The College of LSA will sponsor the following theme semesters:

- Winter 2017: *The Making of the University of Michigan*
- Fall 2017: *Michigan Horizons: The Possible Futures of Michigan*

The master calendar for the Bicentennial will be found at [http://bicentennial.umich.edu](http://bicentennial.umich.edu) beginning in January 2016.
Attachment 2: Bicentennial Goals and Planning Principles

Goals

The Bicentennial should:

1. Celebrate the University’s greatest assets—intellectual creativity and academic endeavor—and project their future impact. The Bicentennial should look forward and help launch our third century.
2. Rediscover the University’s long history of contribution to the intellectual life of the state, nation and world; strengthen University traditions; and connect current and future generations to U-M’s heritage.
3. Celebrate and exemplify the University’s continuing leadership and innovation in higher education. The Bicentennial should reflect both on past achievements and on where we’re going in higher education.
4. Explore with full transparency a variety of tensions the University addressed in the past as a basis for better understanding and further exploring current tensions in higher education and society.
5. Celebrate contributions made to society by our students, current and former: their achievements in a wide range of fields, their civic engagement, their national and international service.
6. Engage all University constituencies, on campus and beyond, and strengthen our connections locally, in state, nationally, and internationally.
7. Express and exemplify core values: intellectual leadership and innovation, publicness, academic freedom and integrity, diversity, and commitment to the combined mission of education, research, and service.

Planning Principles

Planning for the Bicentennial and its constituent activities and events should be guided by a set of principles:

1. Bicentennial activities should make a lasting difference to the University of Michigan.
2. Bicentennial events should be intellectually stimulating, thought-provoking, inspiring, and fun.
3. Bicentennial planning, programming, and celebrations should be inclusive, collegial, and communal; this is everybody’s celebration.
4. The Bicentennial should comprise: (a) a few signal or “pillar” events, centrally organized, and (b) many smaller events, organized by individual units and organizations.
5. Bicentennial activities should be highly participatory.
6. Bicentennial activities should be cost-effective.
7. The Bicentennial and its constituent events and activities should be well-documented.