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Press Release for Flying Solo Research Grant

The Humanities Edge

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For Immediate Release: 6/12/19

The Humanities Edge Awards two \$10,000 Collaborative Research Grants to FIU-MDC Teams

The Humanities Edge, a Mellon-funded project to promote the humanities at Miami Dade College and Florida International University, this week awarded two cross-institutional teams of students and researchers \$10,000 grants to investigate gentrification in Little Haiti and explore the intersection of activism and art.

FIU Professor of Theatre, Phillip Church and MDC Professor of Ethics & Philosophy Darrell Arnold, will lead a project called “Flying Solo: The Activist Artist.”

The project will explore ethical and political reflections on art, and how it impacts our self-understanding and our ways of being in the world. The team will work with several collaborators including the artist Xavier Cortada and several undergraduates from MDC and FIU, who will lead research that highlights the ethical importance of art pedagogy, both formal and informal.

The second winning team is led by FIU Associate Professor of Sociology, Richard Tardanico and MDC Associate Professor of Arts & Philosophy Joseph Tamargo.

The project, “Little Haiti Confronts Gentrification, Dislocation, and Evictions” will address the question, “How do Little Haiti’s families, small businesses, and community at large attempt to cope with the neighborhood’s rapid gentrification, including dislocations and evictions?”

The jury praised both winning proposals for their collaborative reach, research design, community engagement, and humanities content.

Winners will give presentations of their findings at both institutions in the spring of 2020.

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