Ashé Africa Student Summer Research/Practice Grants

Ashé Africa is a multi-faceted exploration of the diversity, richness and beauty of the African continent. Funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Ashé Africa is a two-year program at Pomona College that brings the finest of African performing and visual arts to the Claremont campus. Programming combines academic initiatives that explore governance, policy, and cultural issues with artist residencies, workshops, and concerts that give students the opportunity to experience the diversity of African art and cultures first-hand.

The goals of the Ashé Africa initiative are to increase students’ understanding of the geo-political strategic importance and rich diversity of African nations; to produce measurable increases in the campus community’s awareness of Africa’s rich artistic and cultural heritage; to result in a better understanding of the historical connections between African performance traditions and the diaspora.

Program Objectives of the Ashé Africa Initiative

The Ashé Africa Initiative builds on the achievements of the Mellon Elemental Arts grant by teaching international curriculum with a specific regional focus on Africa through sustainable interdisciplinary collaborations between the arts and other academic disciplines.

Ashé Africa programming will:
1. increase our students’ understanding of the geo-political strategic importance and rich diversity of African nations;
2. produce measurable increases in the campus community’s awareness of Africa’s rich artistic and cultural heritage
3. result in a better understanding of the historical connections between African performance traditions and the diaspora.
4. allow us to develop and test matrices, modules, and processes for successful guest artist/scholar/practitioner residencies in the liberal arts context as high-impact teaching and learning tools at the College.

INVITATION

The Ashé Africa Initiative will competitively award five (5) summer stipends of a maximum of up to $5,000 each (including supplies) in Spring 2016. The initiative aims to support students intending to pursue full-time internships, arts apprenticeships, collaborative research with a faculty member, or their own research agenda with frequent and substantive faculty interaction. Projects applying a cross-disciplinary perspective and a collaborative approach across the arts, sciences, humanities, and social sciences are encouraged. Successful candidates will be required to document and formally present aspects of their summer experience to the campus community in the Fall semester following their summer project. Participation is required in a forum with other award recipients.
CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION
All proposals will be evaluated on:
• the artistic and academic value of the proposed project
• the impact of the project for the student’s personal academic and creative development (e.g., senior thesis)
• the feasibility and cost effectiveness of the proposed project
• the quality of the plan for sharing the outcomes of the funded activity with the Pomona College community in the fall semester following the summer for which the grant was awarded.
• Note that, as a rule, Pomona is unlikely to support international experiences for students that involve travel to countries for which the U.S. Department of State has issued a travel warning

ELIGIBILITY
• Currently enrolled Pomona students
• Students from Scripps, Harvey Mudd, Claremont McKenna, and Pitzer College enrolled in a course with a Pomona College professor
• Students enrolled for independent study with a Pomona faculty member
• Students participating in a performance ensemble based at Pomona College

Graduating seniors are not eligible for the Ashé Africa Summer Research/Practice awards. All continuing Pomona College faculty are eligible as collaborators. Collaborating faculty are expected to maintain regular communication with students during the proposed research period, which may be as short as six or as long as ten weeks.

APPLICATION
To apply for support through the Ashé Africa Initiative, students must submit a written proposal of no more than three (3) pages describing the proposed research or arts-based project, how it will advance their educational goals, and how it will be shared with the Pomona College community.

Proposals must be accompanied by:
• an application cover form
• the student’s CV (no more than 2 pages).
• A letter of support from the proposed faculty collaborator/faculty mentor, which must include a confirmation of proposed dates, duration of the proposed project, as well as the faculty member’s intention to serve as an active mentor during this period. Faculty letters of support should be mailed or emailed separately to the Ashé Africa Grant Coordinator (for full contact information see below).
• A line item budget.

Budget
The Ashé Africa Student Summer Research/Practice Grant award provides a stipend of up to $5,000. Competitive projects are for no less than 6 and a maximum of 10 weeks during the summer. The grant is designed to cover travel expenses (if needed), accommodation, ground transportation, workshop or instructional fees, meals, as well as research-related materials and equipment. No larger equipment items, such as computers, laptops, and cameras should be requested. The proposal budget needs to provide a breakdown of these items.

To create your line item budget, you may use the optional budget template available for download on the Ashé Africa website at http://www.pomona.edu/events/series/ashe-africa
APPLICATION TIMELINE
The application deadline will be announced on the Ashé Africa website and publicized via email and the usual Claremont Colleges channels early February. The application deadline is February 19, 2016. Five grant award winners will be announced in March–April.

DELIVERABLES
Grant “deliverables” need to be clearly described in the proposal narrative: what do you expect to be the grant outcomes? How will you share your projects with the College community? What plans do you have for dissemination? If the “deliverables” are a talk or an event, it should normally be scheduled for the Fall semester immediately following the summer award.

SUBMISSIONS
Applications must be submitted online via Claremont Connect. The online application procedure, including opening and ending dates, will be provided to all faculty and students via an email announcement in February 2016.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
With questions about the submission process or technical difficulties, please contact Kacey Ross, Administrative Assistant, Foundation Relations and Strategic Initiatives, at x78910 or at kacey.ross@pomona.edu.

Content-related questions should be addressed to Professor Zayn Kassam at zayn.kassam@pomona.edu.
Ashé Africa Student Summer Research/Practice Grants

Posting ID: 16853224  
Deadline: February 19, 2016

The Ashé Africa Initiative will competitively award five (5) summer stipends of a maximum of up to $5,000 each (including supplies) in Spring 2016 for work related to Africa. This work can include full-time internships, arts apprenticeships, and collaborative or independent research under the guidance of a Pomona faculty member.

HOW TO APPLY:  
Log in and apply through Claremont Connect, on any career services portal of the Claremont Colleges. The application is listed as: “Summer 2016 Ashé Africa Student Summer Research/Practice Grants”, posting ID number 16853224  
http://www.pomona.edu/administration/career-development/students/job-and-internship-search/claremont-connect.aspx

ELIGIBILITY:  
- Currently enrolled students from Pomona,  
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BRIEF PROGRAM OVERVIEW  
A two-year initiative, Ashé Africa at Pomona College combines academic initiatives that explore governance, policy, and cultural issues with artist residencies, workshops, and concerts that give students the opportunity to experience the diversity of African art and cultures first-hand.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES  
The goals of the Ashé Africa initiative are to increase students’ understanding of the geo-political strategic importance and rich diversity of African nations; to produce measurable increases in the campus community’s awareness of Africa’s rich artistic and cultural heritage; to result in a better understanding of the historical connections between African performance traditions and the diaspora.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Professor Zayn Kassam at zayn.kassam@pomona.edu  
FOR TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY WITH UPLOADING, PLEASE CONTACT: Kacey Ross at kacey.ross@pomona.edu