

THE COMMONS
Call for Artist Projects

Urban Palimpsest
destruction and renewal

2011-2012

THEME

In academic year 2011-2012, The Commons will explore the theme: **Urban Palimpsest *destruction and renewal*** through lectures, discussions, film, and art installations.

Within this broad theme, some possible questions include:

- Why do we build cities in uninhabitable places?
- Are cities more critical to our survival than rural areas?
- What importance should we place on the layers of meaning within a city?
- Is it wise to rebuild cities that have been devastated by natural disasters and may again?
- What does it take to rebuild a city?
- Can we separate emotion from the discussion of a city's contributions to the world?

With **Urban Palimpsest *destruction and renewal***, The Commons hopes to engage the KU community in exploring the scientific, humanistic, and artistic elements of cities. In particular, events and programs will explore the way that these perspectives come together to help us understand the complexities inherent in the devastation of a city lost to disaster and the restructuring as it is rebuilt.

PURPOSE

The Commons at the University of Kansas invites KU faculty members working in any discipline to submit proposals for artist projects within the theme **Urban Palimpsest *destruction and renewal***. A partnership between the Biodiversity Institute, the Hall Center for the Humanities, and the Spencer Museum of Art, The Commons serves as a catalyst for unconventional thinking, interdisciplinary inquiry, and unexpected discoveries across the sciences, arts, and humanities. As part of our mission to bring together scholars and students to explore the reciprocal relationships between natural and cultural systems, we seek proposals for artist projects that feature strong interdisciplinary ties and that will investigate questions about the life of cities, the potential for destruction, and processes involved in renewal.

PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CRITERIA

The Commons offers a platform for the creation and presentation of innovative, experimental, interdisciplinary installations, performances, or other artist projects. Projects should exhibit strong interdisciplinary elements addressing questions of **Urban Palimpsest *destruction and renewal*** that integrate aspects of the arts, humanities, and sciences. Site-specific projects should incorporate and directly respond to the space of The Commons located on the main level of Spooner Hall. Since The Commons is envisioned as both a physical and intellectual

space for convergence of interdisciplinary inquiry, proposed projects should relate to The Commons both physically and intellectually. Projects should be designed with the Spooner Hall premises and its many uses in mind, with an awareness that the space supports various programs and activities (from symposia to musical events to catered receptions), some of which may occur during the period of an artist installation.

Who can apply?

Open to artistic producers of all disciplines, these projects may be collaborations with either KU-affiliated personnel or outside partners. Proposals that include students are encouraged. The Commons welcomes projects that, with a faculty member as a lead, promise to develop into external funding agency support or traveling presentations as well.

What do funds cover?

Awards are to fund original projects and will cover materials and a modest opening reception, but *not* salaries. Multiple projects may be supported, though total funding will not exceed \$6,000.

How will proposals be selected?

Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of external reviewers. Determinations will consider originality of project, relation to the theme, use of space at The Commons, and alignment with the mission of The Commons.

EXPECTATIONS FOR FUNDED PROJECTS

1. Artists will be expected to present a public talk on their project at The Commons and participate in related Commons programming.
2. Throughout the planning process, award recipients will work one-on-one with the Coordinator of The Commons to ensure that all necessary standards and considerations for the space are taken into account.
3. In collaboration with the Coordinator at The Commons, artists will present a final proposal document to The Commons Committee at least one month prior to the opening of the installation.
4. Artists will develop and execute plans for publicity in conjunction with The Commons Coordinator, to be included in their final budget.
5. Projects are to be realized during the academic year 2011-2012.

KEY DATES

- An **information session** for interested applicants with The Commons partners will be on **Wednesday, September 14** at **3:30pm** at The Commons, Spooner Hall.
- The **deadline for applications** is **Monday, November 7**. Proposals should be submitted in electronic format (Word doc or pdf file) to thecommons@ku.edu.
- Awards will be announced **November 28**.

PAST ARTIST PROJECT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mutatis Mutandis, by: Kip Haaheim, Tristan Telander, and Nolan Lem

2011 Mind, Body, Machine: Human Design Space

Amount: \$1,953

<http://thecommons.ku.edu/mutatismutandis.html>

An Experimental Provocation about the Screens We Use Every Day, by: the students of MDS

560 Motion Graphic Design, Jeremy Shellhorn, and Shannon Criss

2011 Mind, Body, Machine: Human Design Space

Amount: \$775

<http://thecommons.ku.edu/screensinstallation.html>

The Commons Partners

Biodiversity Institute

Leonard Krishtalka - krishtalka@ku.edu

Jorge Soberon - jsoberon@ku.edu

Hall Center for Humanities

Victor Bailey - vbailey@ku.edu

Kristine Latta - klatta@ku.edu

Spencer Museum of Art

Saralyn Reece Hardy - srh@ku.edu

Celka Straughn - straughn@ku.edu

Emily Ryan, Coordinator, The Commons - eryan@ku.edu