

Center for Humanities & the Arts Newsletter

May 2020

Dear CU Boulder Community & Supporters of the CHA,

As you all know, I moved to Boulder in August 2019, so it's very strange to be ending this academic year working from home -- because this isn't how I (or any of you) thought we'd be finishing the 2019-2020 academic year. I know there's a lot of uncertainty right now — and feelings of loss, fear, and anxiety. And because we are human there is also laughter, joy, delight, and love. Humanity is complex, and now more than ever we need humanities & arts to give meaning to our lives. Thankfully we have humanists and artists who are writing and responding to our current crisis, like Modern Language Association president Paula Krebs who wrote a [CNN opinion piece](#) about why we need a new WPA and why artists and humanist scholars are uniquely equipped to respond to the pandemic. And the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, inspired by the Toronto Orchestra, [created art to the tune of Aaron Copeland's "Appalachian Spring."](#) And in response to the rise of anti-Asian harassment and racism I've been witnessing, I created a powerpoint on Anti-Asian Racism & COVID-19 that was [turned into a website by CU Boulder's Arts and Sciences magazine](#). Artists, humanists, and scholars are using all the tools in our toolkit to respond to our pandemic realities.

At the CHA we created a "[Coping with COVID-19](#)" tab, with COVID-19 resources (including videos to [educate, entertain, and inspire](#)) and with events to create community connections, such as Monday Movie Nights, a Virtual Book Club, Shelter Project micro-grants, and our [Pandemic Posts](#), which we are going to continue as long as the Pandemic continues. The entries have been remarkably thoughtful and thought provoking—and we'd love to have you write one for us so please check them out [here](#).

And for the summer we are going to be hard at work trying to think of how we can best support all of you—our faculty, staff, students, and community members. To help us, we'd appreciate if you can [fill out this survey](#) on or before May 31 – it will take only 10 minutes (or less) of your time: <https://forms.gle/uu1cWon7J8ZGSnb16>

We also thought that for all you arts and humanities faculty, that you may want to join an accountability working group. Now, I know that for faculty who are exhausted by the transition to teaching on-line (so that means ALL OF YOU) and especially those of you who are juggling work with full time child care and homeschooling and caring for vulnerable people in your lives, the idea of a summer work accountability group may be the LAST thing you want to think about. So I'm not trying to push a mentality of work at all costs. But, I also know for many artists, researchers, and scholars, summer is the time when traditionally we would turn our attention to the projects we weren't able to focus on during the semester. So I thought the CHA could facilitate working accountability groups for any faculty interested in working on a summer project. I was inspired by Kerry Anne Roquemore's [article on various writing groups](#). Being in two different accountability writing groups enabled me to finish my last two book projects. So if you are interested in joining one, please [fill out this google form](#) and we will work on connecting you with other faculty working on summer projects.

CHA Summer Accountability Working/Writing Groups:
<https://forms.gle/pb9zndhDd9g5VbaT8>

I hope all of you and those you love are keeping healthy as best you can, are keeping your spirits up when you can, and are taking care of those you love and most importantly, yourself—because we all need to engage in good self care.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Ho
Director, Center for Humanities & the Arts

PS. I'll send out a short June newsletter where we will reveal the recipients of the [CHA Shelter Project Micro-Grants](#) – the review process is taking place as I write this.