



Call for proposals: **Tanner Labs**

The Tanner Humanities Center invites proposals for Tanner Labs. Tanner Labs are conceived as spaces for shared, interdisciplinary, and experimental work in the humanities. Labs will generate new experimental forms of advanced research and pedagogical practice, while fostering opportunities for engagement beyond departmental boundaries.

The lab will be funded for a **maximum of \$20,000** to support programming for **up to two years**. The Tanner Humanities Center aims to support up to two labs each year.

Dates and application

- Application due: **Monday, December 1, 2025, at 5:00pm.**
Please submit proposals in a single PDF to Beth James (beth.james@utah.edu).
- Notification to applicants: **February 2026**
- Project begins: **Fall 2026**

Labs membership and eligibility

Labs must be proposed and led by one tenured or tenure-track faculty member in the College of Humanities.

Led by faculty members, labs should bring together broad teams of collaborators, such as early career researchers, graduate students, faculty, or academic staff (librarians, curators, or technologists).

Labs should have at least six core members, not limited to the University of Utah. Their structure may be open or closed, according to each lab's preferences.

Existing labs are not eligible.

Labs objectives

Proposals for labs should be organized around an overarching research theme and outline a vision and plan of activities over two years. The lab might experiment with newly emerging theoretical questions, research methods, scholarly fields, and models of public engagement.

Under the aegis of the lab, leader(s) will organize a team of faculty, academic staff, and students in a constellation of research projects, curriculum innovations, and public or scholarly events. Work could include workshops, invited lectures, seminars, symposia, exhibitions, performances, podcasts, and community-focused initiatives.

Funding procedures

Successful proposals will be funded an initial \$10,000 for the first year. An additional \$10,000 for a second year will be made available following a report of activities for the first year and approval of the Tanner Faculty Board. The grant may be used to cover regular scholarly expenses such as meals for meetings, subventions for publication, and workshop and symposium costs, including invited lecturer costs (e.g., travel, hotel, honoraria, and meals related to the event).

Lab leaders are encouraged to supplement their award with funding from other sources.

Proposal requirements

1. One-page description of the proposed theme and its conceptual or interdisciplinary parameters, including key research questions, areas of curricular development, and proposed public or scholarly engagement.
2. Core membership of the lab, with titles and brief description of roles in the lab.
3. Plan for research collaboration and programming over two years, including internal and public activities, broken down by year.
4. Statement indicating approval from the Chair or Chairs of the lab leader(s)' department(s) of record.
5. Abbreviated CV(s) of the lab leader(s).
6. Proposed budget for two years, broken down by year.

Selection criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by the Tanner Faculty Board and will be awarded based on:

- Originality, creativity, and overall quality of the proposal;
- Scale of interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research engagement;
- Potential for curricular innovation or public engagement;
- Quality and range of the programming proposed;
- Viability of the program in relation to the budget.

Please direct any questions about the Tanner Labs program to Scott Black, Director of the Tanner Humanities Center (scott.black@utah.edu).