

Democracy Laboratory
Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research
2022-23 Call for Participants

The Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research calls for University of Wyoming faculty, staff, and researchers (regardless of rank), graduate students, undergraduate students, and Wyoming community members to apply for the Democracy Laboratory's 2022-2023 cohort program.

The Democracy Lab seeks to empower students, faculty, and the public using interdisciplinary methods in order to connect our communities and to strengthen the quality of our democracy. We draw inspiration and support from the National Endowment for the Humanities' ["A More Perfect Union"](#) initiative; the [American Academy of Arts & Sciences Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship](#) and its report *Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century*; and from the UW's [Grand Challenges](#) initiative. In the best spirit of the Land Grant University mission, the Democracy Lab is an incubator where researchers, students, and the public can gather, discuss issues, discover and experiment with new ideas, and learn from one another.

The theme for our 2022-23 cohort will be **Democracy and Access**. A successful democracy depends on both an informed citizenry in possession of reliable, accessible information and a robust set of policies, laws, and social norms that allow those citizens' full and equal access to, and participation in, the democratic process.

The cohort will gather an interdisciplinary and intergenerational team of people committed to the work of improving the quality of democracy and equality in our state, nation, and world. Cohort members will receive the opportunity to hone, develop, produce, and publish both individual and collective projects related to the theme. Cohort members will participate in an interdisciplinary curriculum designed to facilitate their individual projects; develop community engagement skills; and become more productively engaged citizens.

The culminating events of the experience will be a one-day symposium in which participants will share the results of their work with the public, followed by the publication of their work in the Democracy Lab's online, open-access, multimedia journal, *Experiments in Democracy*, to be published in summer 2023. Undergraduate and graduate students may have the opportunity to enroll for course credit; community members may receive continuing education credit. Cohort members will receive a \$500 stipend for materials and expenses; upon completion of the cohort experience, cohort members will be eligible for a small grant to continue developing and implementing their projects.

To Apply

We invite applications from individuals affiliated with the University of Wyoming or located in southeast Wyoming. Given that we anticipate an in-person experience, geographic proximity to the

Laramie campus is required. The Democracy Lab cohort will be limited to twelve people, and will be a mix of UW researchers, graduate and undergraduate students, and the public. Applicants may co-apply and are encouraged to do so. If you are interested in working directly with another applicant, please note their names in your application letter.

Cohort participants will be required to attend Democracy Lab meetings, events, and programs throughout the 2022-23 academic year. Each month's activities will vary, but participants should expect to devote approximately four hours of time per month, in addition to time spent working on individual and collaborative writing projects.

Cohort members will be chosen for the quality and promise of their research and their civic engagement in their own local communities. Preference will be given to applicants whose project descriptions are interdisciplinary and public-facing.

To apply, please submit an application letter, no longer than two pages, that includes:

- Reasons for applying
- Descriptions of previous community-engaged writing, teaching, volunteering, or work experience
- Description of a project related to the theme Democracy and Access that can be produced during the cohort year. (For example, projects could be a community engagement activity, writing or teaching projects, excerpts from an undergraduate or graduate student thesis, or the design of a research project, such as data gathering for a survey, interview plan, or an agenda for time spent in archives.)

Please also submit a short CV or resume, no longer than two pages, that includes:

- Name and contact information
- Education
- Current and past positions
- Publications, including full citations, if any
- Participation in organizations, or activities related to civic and community engagement
- Other relevant activities, awards, or accomplishments

If you have questions or would like more information about the cohort curriculum, please visit <<https://www.uwyo.edu/humanities/democracy-laboratory/index.html>> or write to Dr. Scott Henkel at <scott.henkel@uwyo.edu>.

Please submit applications by **April 29th, 2022** to <humanities@uwyo.edu>. Application review will begin on that date and continue until all spaces in the cohort are filled.