



## RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

Where we make a large university feel small

Founded in 1967, the Residential College (RC) is one of the nation's oldest living-learning communities. It offers undergraduate students a unique living-learning experience in which they benefit from being members of a small college community with full access to the offerings and resources of a world-class research university. Students spend their first two years in an intensive RC residency program that stresses writing skills and language acquisition, and then they may choose to participate in an upper-level curriculum that enables them to remain a vital part of a learning community even beyond their residency years. These upper-level learning opportunities are open to all LSA students desiring to join a community of learners who are deeply engaged in the study of language and the arts, as well as integrative, interdisciplinary programs in the humanities and the social sciences.

Four interrelated principles reflect the unique value of an RC education:

- *Critical Thinking:* An RC education trains students to evaluate evidence, interpret points of view, assess, and engage issues across disciplinary boundaries.
- *Active Learning:* The RC challenges students to control their education by providing support and direction as they choose what they want to explore, shape their course, and justify their goals.
- *Linking Learning and Doing:* The RC living-learning program combines classroom learning (ideas, reflection, and study) with participatory action (campus, community, or global).
- *Building Skills to Sustain Risk-Taking:* The RC encourages students to develop skills that will serve them in many kinds of endeavors. Competence in writing, fluency in a foreign language, and creative practice in the arts are at the center of the RC curriculum.

Not only are these skills basic to successful career paths and engaged citizenship, they also encourage students to push beyond limits and test their capacities. RC students are prepared to work in any number of environments with exceptional problem solving, communication, and creative skills.

We seek support to strengthen core programs and ideals, as we continue to put students in the world—locally, nationally and internationally—and to explore new initiatives and innovations. We are dedicated to building on the strength of our living learning community: our programs in the arts, drama, and music; our history of innovation in academic civic engagement; and our commitment to language skills and cross-cultural engagement at home and abroad. At the same time, gifts help us to pursue new ways to promote integrated student learning inside and beyond the classroom and new methods of encouraging relationships between current RC students and alumni.

## RC CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FUND

The RC is proud to have played a leading role in incubating, launching and supporting several innovative educational programs, such as the Semester in Detroit, the newly emerging Center for Engaged Learning, and the urban studies/Detroit School research and teaching cluster. Having been at the forefront of trends in “engaged” or “community-based” learning, which link classrooms to surrounding communities, we want to continue to foster such initiatives through the newly created RC Civic Engagement Fund. This fund provides support for the general development of new initiatives.

## THE RC INNOVATION FUND

This fund supports new programs developed by RC students and faculty. These innovations might come in the form of new courses, experiments with the arts practicum, new language initiatives, and different forms of community engagement. We want to be prepared to fund today’s experiments that become tomorrow’s core strengths. One new initiative involves actively cultivating storytelling as a theme and a practice that runs throughout and unites many of our existing programs, from the social sciences and the humanities, to the studio arts, to languages and creative writing.

A strategic focus on Storytelling in the Arts, Media, and Social Practice would conjoin traditional research and teaching methods—for example oral history, ethnography, quantitative analysis, and historiography—with the documentary arts of photojournalism, film-making, print journalism, theater, radio production, and community-based curation. Such a program would transcend conventional disciplinary separations, mobilize the full range of talents and expertise represented by RC faculty and students, and put us in collaboration with new developments throughout LSA (and across the campus) in digital humanities and new media arts. Growing this program into future research centers that could also collaborate with community groups and agencies would also be desirable. Another initiative involves promoting closer ties between RC alums and current RC students by bringing them into conversation and collaboration in myriad ways.



**“The RC has taught me what it means to be a positive and productive community member. The nurturing environment gave me the confidence to take academic risks, become a more mindful and engaged citizen, and challenge the status quo under which I was raised.”**

**–Katharine Boasberg, LSA '22**



## THE LIVING-LEARNING FUND

The Living-Learning Fund is designed to support the distinctive intellectual and social community that sits at the heart of liberal arts education. This fund supports a variety of community-building activities and leadership training among RC students. Annual gifts of \$10,000 to \$50,000 would support a range of student awards that recognize achievements, such as the best thesis, and that further build skills and cultivate talent, such as scholarships to attend the Bear River Writers' Conference, the New England Literature Program (NELP) or other opportunities. Also, funds would enable us to further augment our commitment to providing leadership training to every RC student, and would provide resources for RC students to develop and cultivate their own student-led initiatives.

## LANGUAGE-BASED INTERNSHIPS & SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

For the past four decades, language study has been at the heart of the RC's educational mission. To build on our strengths in this regard, the RC launched and maintains the Spanish Language Internship Program (SLIP) which places students in agencies and organizations where Spanish is used in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Southwest Detroit. The internship program allows students to gain valuable real-world experience applying their language skills within an academic context that encourages self-reflection and intellectual insight. Our goal is to further develop similar programs in other RC languages, especially French, which currently works with Freedom House in Detroit—an organization providing shelter and legal assistance to asylum seekers from Francophone African nations. They are also given the opportunity to do supervised translation work for Freedom House's legal department. Both opportunities are currently unfunded and done primarily on a volunteer basis. Contributions of \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually would allow us the ability to support these important endeavors.

## RC CREATIVE ARTS AND EDUCATION FUND

The RC has always been committed to making the visual and performing arts a priority for a liberal arts education. The arts practicum requires students to engage in the creative process and to exhibit their work. This emphasis on the arts also runs throughout our newly renovated East Quad home with its Keene Theater, its new studio arts and music education facilities, and its new art gallery. Gifts ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually for our RC Creative Arts and Education Fund could be used to provide support for all of our popular programs, or could be designated for a particular program.

- *Shakespeare in the Arb*—Current students, alums, and community members combine talents to stage multiple performances in the Nichols Arboretum each June, with a special “revival” during the Fall Welcome Week in early September. This extremely popular community program is funded on a proverbial shoestring and is in need of support.

- *Telling It Program*—The Telling It Program (TIP) is a site for the “Empowering Community through Creative Expression” course at the RC, which encourages undergraduate and graduate students to develop leadership skills through service-learning in an environment that demands academic rigor and reflection. LSA students in TIP work with children and youth in grades K-12 through creative expression to boost their scholastic confidence. Students learn how to establish a safe and creative environment for “at-risk-to-fail” kids in Washtenaw County, to stimulate creative writing and literacy skills through the creative arts, and to identify and address the impediments to personal and academic success for each participant.
- *The RC Music Program*—The program offers performance, music theory/composition, and musicology/ethnomusicology. This vibrant program concentrates on the kinds of courses that are not open to non-music majors at the School of Music. Hands-on and deeply collaborative, this program is also dedicated to expanding course and co-curricular offerings in non-western traditions in music and performance. In recent years, these have included the Chinese Music Ensemble, Javanese dance and the Gamelan, Indian dance, Afro-Cuban drumming and other traditions that enhance the breadth and depth of an undergraduate liberal arts education. Gifts would make it possible to continue support for these offerings.
- *Theater Collaboration with the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro*—The RC is working with faculty in the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center (LACS) to develop a new performance/language/cultural project that has resulted from President Mary Sue Coleman’s trip to Brazil.
- *The RC Deutsches Theater*—Since 1985, the RC Deutsches Theater has developed a rich history of uniting theater and German language study. This venerable program has a number of needs, including funds to digitize VHS tapes of prior performances, to purchase current German media, to help fund a Deutsches Theater Spring break trip, to replace the company’s props and equipment, and to update its website and archive.
- *Artist, Writer, or Performer in Residence Program*—Currently the RC offers residencies that bring talented artists, writers and performers into close contact with RC students by offering mini-courses, tutorials, workshops and master classes. We would like to be able to increase the frequency and kind of residencies we offer. The RC Creative Writing Program is especially interested in selecting an emerging writer for a residency and working with him or her, in conjunction with local nonprofit or university publishers, to publish his/her manuscript and to directly involve students in the acquisition, editing and marketing processes. We also want to focus on artists and performers whose work crosses the boundaries between the arts and humanities and the social sciences, for example a poet who is also an environmental activist, a specialist in ethnographic theater, documentary filmmakers working on issues of mass incarceration, a musician who works simultaneously in digital media, and so forth.

## NAMING RC ART GALLERY

In recognition of RC program support, new facilities in the East Quad open up a number of space naming opportunities for gifts that can be used to promote greater future innovations in and through RC programs. The RC Art Gallery, for which an endowed gift of \$1M represents a major naming opportunity. The RC Gallery is an innovative space located in the heart of East Quad. Exhibits of the work of visiting artists as well as student shows will be featured for public viewing.

## THE PRISON CREATIVE ARTS PROJECT (PCAP)

Gifts to support PCAP provide funding for this innovative program that uses creative expression to engage U-M students in social justice work with incarcerated adults and youth, high school students, and returning citizens throughout Michigan. Students develop leadership skills through a rigorous curriculum and by facilitating a visual art, theater, or creative writing workshop that will culminate in a final performance, reading, exhibition, or artistic portfolio by the youth and adults PCAP seeks to serve. Activities include: annual exhibitions featuring work by prisoners, incarcerated youth, and returning citizens; a literary review; and artistic mentoring for returning citizens. Endowed support would guarantee that PCAP will be able to continue its life changing work in perpetuity. Support, both endowed and annual, is always needed:

- Programming (including special presentations, equipment and supplies, venue rental, campus visits for high school workshop participants, and publication costs): *\$500,000 endowed / \$25,000 annually*
- Art work exhibition (including venue rental and preparing artwork for exhibition): *\$500,000 endowed / \$25,000 annually*
- Staffing (including coordinator, stipends for artistic mentoring program participants and volunteers, honoraria for guest speakers): *\$1M endowed / \$50,000 annually*
- Annual support is always needed for a range of equipment and services, such as presentation portfolios, art supplies, workshop anthology and program printing, conference materials, costs for the literary review, and artwork management.

## THE SEMESTER IN DETROIT (SID)

The Semester in Detroit transforms U-M students through substantive, sustained and reciprocal relationships with the people, organizations, and neighborhoods of Detroit. By living, learning, and working in the city, our students engage with community leaders in transformative work—strengthening themselves as well as the wider region. For the semester, students live in Wayne State dorms or other housing in key Detroit neighborhoods, enroll in a rigorous curriculum taught by Ann Arbor faculty at U-M's Detroit Center, and participate in a community-based internship. As a result of this experience, many students choose to stay in Detroit to live and work. Endowed funding of \$2M is needed to enable more students to participate, regardless of their financial ability.

- Student housing: \$25,000 annually
- Student stipends: *\$40,000 annually/ \$3,500 per student*
- SiD coordinator: *\$35,000 annually*

## WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

## CONTACT INFO

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