

PROPOSAL

AFRO-AMERICAN HUMANISTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER
Atlanta, Georgia

This proposal is for the establishment of a fellowship program to enable young Afro-American humanists to obtain an intensive year of formal education. In the context of the definitive historical changes occurring within the Afro-American community, there has been the rapid rise of a new humanist, who is both a skilled craftsman and an articulate interpreter of community life. Often, however, his prominence has been achieved at the cost of broad formal educational background. Now, since it is clear that they are generating successfully a new identity for Afro-Americans, it is equally clear that these young Afro-Americans must be well prepared to meet the challenge of new opportunities. The Atlanta University Centers' emphasis on Afro-American studies provides an appropriate program for a series of fellowships to be awarded to young Afro-Americans to supplement their formal education. We propose the following plan for implementing a fellowship program.

THE NEED

Simultaneous with every major social period of the Afro-American experience, the arts have flowered. This period is no exception. In practically every city in the United States there has developed a cultural movement functioning to articulate the social, economic and political aspirations of Black people as well as to affirm the ontological truth that "Black is beautiful." And in most cases the creators and interpreters of this cultural revolution are young humanists who chose not to follow the accepted routes of formal education and training.

Another component of this cultural revolution is the rapid re-evaluation of institutions of higher learning. The predominantly Negro colleges are turning to their roots in the historical African and Afro-American experience, while the rest of the nation's schools are searching for informed and able staff to develop programs of Afro-American studies. The net result is that demand has far exceeded supply, both in terms of the number of available qualified people. For example: Black students at a large midwestern university recently set up an Afro-American studies program with the support of their administration. In their frustrating search for faculty to staff the program, they sought the support of a writer's workshop including some young writers who are lecturers with national reputations. Several of the writers had published in national magazines, and four had published volumes of verse and criticism. However, only two of twenty met the requirements of a Bachelor of Arts degree even though six had been offered writers in residence positions at other colleges (including one at an Ivy League University).

In addition to the college degree being of practical administrative and economic value, the opportunity of being exposed systematically to relevant bodies of knowledge is essential for the development of a solid background to facilitate sustained creative and critical work. Therefore, it is critical that opportunities be made available for young Afro-American humanists to further their education in the context of a meaningful and relevant educational program.

This proposal is for the purpose of establishing this kind of program at the Atlanta University Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The Center is composed of six schools: a graduate and professional school (Atlanta University), four colleges (Clark College, Morehouse College for men, Morris Brown College, and Spelman College for women), and one seminary (Interdenominational Theological Center). While primarily serving the Afro-American community, the Center has been continuously developing facilities, faculty, and courses to meet the educational needs of Black people. The 1968-69 faculty includes Dr. Horace Mann Bond, Africanist and educator; Dr. Vincent Harding, historian; Mr. A.B. Spelman, poet and author, and music critic; Mr. Miles Jackson, author and librarian; Dr. Council Taylor, anthropologist; Dr. Stephen Henderson, folklorist and poet; Mr. Harold Lawrence, Africanist and Historian; and Dr. Richard Long, critic, scholar and art historian. In addition, over thirty courses are being offered in eight departments throughout the Center during the current fall semester, (1968-69).

And Atlanta needs the presence of a group of young Afro-American cultural innovators, for the educational experiences of the Atlanta University Center would be greatly enhanced by the full participation

of the group of young fellows, both in the classroom and in general cultural programs. Moreover, since the Afro-American community in Atlanta is just now experiencing the initial stages of a cultural movement, it is clear that a group of creative people would serve as positive catalytic agents.

PLAN OF ACTION

A program of fellowships will be established through the Atlanta University Center Corporation following the precedent set by the _____ Bank establishing an endowed chair in Business Administration through the Center Corporation. There will be a total of fifteen fellowships. Ten will be open to those people having some college work but not having obtained a degree (B.A. or B.S.), and five will be open to those people having completed a college degree but not a master's degree or a professional degree. The fellows will be able to enroll in courses offered in all of the schools in the Atlanta University Center complex. (All degree candidates will have to satisfy the requirements of any school from which a degree is sought.)

The administration of the fellowship program will be handled in two parts. The financial and administration coordination will be assumed by the Executive Secretary of the Atlanta University Center Corporation. The fellowship applications and the selection of fellows will be administered by a fellowship committee composed of four faculty scholars at the Atlanta University Center and four nationally known humanists.

The fellowship program will be for the academic year 1969-79. Fellowship applications will be solicited through national publications such as Negro Digest, Liberator, Journal of Black Poetry, and Freedomways, Ebony, and Phylon. In addition notices will be sent to cultural organizations throughout the country.

The fellowships will be open to people who work in the history, criticism, theory, and/or practice of the arts. Each application will require a significant sample of the applicant's works, both published and unpublished, a full description of the applicant's activity during the preceding year, and two letters of recommendation from persons in the applicant's field.

At the end of the fellowship year the Center will undertake to publish an anthology of the creative and critical work produced during the year by the fellows. This volume will be edited by members of the fellowship committee.

BUDGET

(TIME: ACADEMIC YEAR 1969-70)

1.	Tuition and fees (at \$1500 each for 15 Fellows)...	\$22,500
2.	Living Costs (at \$1800 each for 15 Fellows).....	\$26,000
3.	Dependents' Support (at \$500 per dependent for an average of one dependant per Fellow).....	\$ 7,500
4.	Professional Allowance (at \$500 per Fellow for materials and travel)...	\$ 7,500
	TOTAL	\$63,500

(Overhead costs will be borne by the Atlanta
University Center)

Appendix I

Afro-American and Third World Courses

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER
(Fall Semester, 1968-69)

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| 1. Art 347-348 | <u>Eastern Art I & II</u>
(Spelman - Gerney) |
| 2. Art 445 | <u>African Art</u>
(Spelman - Long) |
| 3. Art 446 | <u>Seminar in Afro-American Painting</u>
(Spelman - Gaither) |
| 4. Education 395 | <u>Teaching Black Cultures</u>
(Morehouse - Taylor) |
| 5. English 590 | <u>The Negro in Literature</u>
(Atlanta Univ. - Long) |
| 6. English 385 | <u>The Jazz Experience in Literature</u>
(Morehouse - A.B. Spelman) |
| 7. English 497 | <u>Survey of Afro-American Literature</u>
(Morehouse - A.B. Spelman) |
| 8. Phys. Ed. 241-242 | <u>Modern Jazz Dance I & II</u>
(Spelman - Rushing) |
| 9. History 375 | <u>Black Peoples & Cultures of Africa</u>
(Morehouse - Taylor) |
| 10. History 251 | <u>Survey of Latin American History</u>
(Spelman - Mendoza) |
| 11. History 315 | <u>Egypt, Greece, and Rome</u>
(Spelman - de Pagnier) |
| 12. History 325 | <u>Survey of African Civilization</u>
(Spelman - Lawrence) |
| 13. History 331 | <u>History of Afro-American Experience</u>
(Spelman - Harding) |
| 14. History 351 | <u>Survey of Asian History</u>
(Spelman - Guruge) |
| 15. History 455 | <u>Contemporary Asian Problems</u>
(Spelman - Guruge) |

Afro-American & Third
World Courses
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| 16. History 481 | <u>Seminar on Contemporary Slavery</u>
(Spelman - Drimmer) |
| 17. History 463 | <u>The Negro in the United States</u>
(Atlanta Univ. -) |
| 18. History 325 | <u>Negro History</u>
(Morris Brown - Swinton) |
| 19. History | <u>African History</u>
(Morris Brown -) |
| 20. Political Science 592 | <u>Politics in Developing States</u>
(Atlanta Univ. -) |
| 21. Pol. Science 361 | <u>Comparative Far Eastern Governments</u>
(Morehouse - Morgan) |
| 22. Pol. Science 373 | <u>Politics of Developing Nations</u>
(Spelman, Morehouse - Fields) |
| 23. Pol. Science 463 | <u>India Ancient and Classical</u>
(Morehouse - Brisbane) |
| 24. Pol. Science 483 | <u>The Negro and Southern Politics</u>
(Spelman, Morehouse - Moreland) |
| 25. Religion | <u>The Negro Church in America</u>
(Clark - Jackson) |
| 26. Religion 307 | <u>World Religions</u>
(Spelman - Jacks) |
| 27. Sociology 572 | <u>Problems of Africa</u>
(Atlanta University - Ross) |
| 28. Sociology 576 | <u>American Minorities</u>
(Morehouse - Grant) |
| 29. Sociology 302 | <u>Black Power, Black Identity and
The Third World</u>
(Spelman - McWorter) |
| 30. Sociology 325 | <u>Sociology of Contemporary Black Politics</u>
(Spelman - McWorter) |
| 31. Education | <u>Education for the Black American</u>
(Atlanta Univ. - Bond) |
| 32. Chinese | |
| 33. Swahili | |
| 34. Ibo | |

Appendix II

AFRO-AMERICAN HUMANIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

COMMITTEE

Dr. Stephen Handerson, Professor and Chairman, Department of English
Morehouse College, Atlanta University Center

Mr. A. B. Spelman, Department of English
Morehouse College, Atlanta University Center

Dr. Vincent Harding, Professor and Chairman, Department of History &
Sociology, Spelman College, Atlanta Univ. Center

Mr. Gerald A. McPorter, Asst. Professor of Sociology, Spelman College,
Atlanta University Center

Dr. Richard Long, Professor of English, Atlanta University

Mr. Hoyt Fuller, Editor, Negro Digest

Mr. LeRoi Jones, poet, author, dramatist

Roy DeCarava, photographer

Gwendolyn Brooks, poet

Margaret Walker