The Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative (HMUI) invites applications for grants to support research projects with an urban focus, ideally with an interdisciplinary approach. Projects might include but are not limited to such issues as inequality, diversity, and climate change. We seek proposals in two broad areas:

1. Research in archives and online data sets that will lead to publication and/or course-related projects and programming to strengthen Urban Studies at Harvard.
2. Innovative strategies for disseminating knowledge (e.g.: data visualization, maps, multimedia history, etc.).

All Harvard affiliates are welcome to apply.

- Faculty and instructors can only apply to hire student research assistants.
- Currently-enrolled students, both undergraduate and graduate, may apply to undertake their own independent or collaborative projects.

The Urban Initiative is particularly interested in linking humanistic approaches to cities with spatial investigations of the built and natural environments. We encourage projects with a pedagogical and/or interdisciplinary dimension that generate materials for teaching, exhibitions, publications, and/or digital platforms. Collaborative projects that bring together faculty and students from across the university to develop new cross-disciplinary approaches to the study of urban environments, societies, and cultures are welcome.

Projects can be conducted in the Spring semester and/or Summer of 2022. Budgets can be no higher than $2,500 per project. Budgets can include hourly compensation to the student as well as research expenses limited to supplies directly related to research such as skilled assistance to advance research (for example, mapmaking and translation). Travel is mostly allowable within current university guidelines, though this is subject to change. Hourly pay is set at $20/hr for undergraduate students and $25/hr for graduate students. All successful applicants will be expected to share some version of their project on the HMUI website.

Former grant recipients are invited to apply, but priority will be given to new applicants.

To apply please submit a one-page proposal, CV, and budget via CARAT by December 1, 2021. Applicants will be informed of the status of their applications in January 2022, in time to begin work during Spring semester.