



NEW MYTHOS RESEARCH GRANT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

It's all a question of story. We are in trouble just now because we do not have a good story. We are in between stories. The old story, the account of how the world came to be and how we fit into it is no longer effective....Our challenge is to create...a new sense of what it means to be human.

Thomas Berry

The old gods are dead or dying and people everywhere are searching, asking: What is the new mythology to be, the mythology of this unified earth as of one harmonious being? ... The only myth that is going to be worth thinking about in the immediate future is one that is talking about the planet and everything on it.

Joseph Campbell

Toward the end of his life, Joseph Campbell interrupted his major work *Historical Atlas of World Mythology* to publish *The Inner Reaches of Outer Space* with an urgent message that he felt needed to be heard. That book serves as a clarion call for the discovery and development of a new myth to inform our world. That was 1986.

Since then Campbell's call has been taken up by many and now we find ourselves in a time when the cry from most every quarter is for a new story, a new narrative, the new mythos that he wrote about. We humans are in search of a way to understand the patterns underlying the profound transformation we are currently experiencing in relationship with each other and our planet. From whence will this new mythos come? Who will tell the story? How will such a search be resourced?

The collections held by OPUS Archives and Research Center provide a deep well of treasure by visionary thinkers, scholars, writers and teachers. These individuals dedicated their lives to exploring the origins of cultural stories from pre-history (Marija Gimbutas), through ancient and classic history (Joseph Campbell and Christine Downing), and into contemporary culture (James Hillman and Jane and Joseph Wheelwright), thereby laying the foundation for new research that fosters meaning and guidance for the questions held by our modern world.

OVERVIEW OF GRANT

OPUS is offering 5 to 7 grants to individuals or teams that show both intent and ability to seize the opportunity and take responsibility for searching OPUS' collections for the "gold" harbored there, published and unpublished; public and as yet unrevealed to the community-at-large. The goal is to use the OPUS archival collections in order to articulate and manifest the seeds of the new mythos, the new narrative of our time. The findings will be made available in a public forum, on OPUS' and other websites and, if warranted, in written form. The research and project results are to be made available in a myriad of forms with a broad scope. OPUS will encourage the successful grantees to manifest their projects in whatever creative form they take.

GRANT GUIDELINES

Applicants must demonstrate the necessity of substantial on-site use of OPUS' collections.

Who is Eligible. The grant is open to inspired seekers from many disciplines and positions--graduate students, faculty, independent scholars, filmmakers, visual artists, business and social entrepreneurs, environmental visionaries, storytellers, educators and those interested in social justice, peace, and reconciliation—those who have demonstrated the capacity to research and produce creative work through writing, visual art, poetry, film, musical compositions, curriculum development or social enterprise.

Amount and Duration of Grant. Grants range between \$3000 and \$5000. The amount awarded will depend on the proposed project. These funds are for one (1) year of research to be conducted between December 1, 2009 and December 1, 2010.

Deadline for Submission: September 15, 2009
Notification of Awarded Grants: November 20, 2009

Intention for the Grant. OPUS intends this grant to be a unique offering that will lead to inspiration of thought and action unencumbered by the traditional channels of ideas that have supported the planet in its current state. The model for this grant offering is best seen in Meredith Sabini's *The Earth Has a Soul: the Nature Writings of Jung*. Researching Jung's body of work she sought to reveal, in his own words, his ideas on the relationship between humans and nature and what deeply psychological and spiritual lessons lie therein.

Grant Application Procedures follow on the next page.

NEW MYTHOS GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

A complete application consists of one digital *four-page* proposal in Microsoft Word and one letter of recommendation in a sealed, signed envelope, mailed to OPUS. Please submit your application via email to newmythos@opusarchives.org. **Complete applications for the New Mythos Grant must be received by September 15, 2009.**

Eligibility. The grant is open to inspired seekers from many disciplines and positions--graduate students, faculty, independent scholars, filmmakers, visual artists, business and social entrepreneurs, environmental visionaries, storytellers, educators and those interested in social justice, peace, and reconciliation--who have demonstrated the capacity to research and produce creative work through writing, visual art, poetry, film, musical compositions, curriculum development or social enterprise. ***Applicants must demonstrate the necessity of substantial on-site use of OPUS' collections.***

Proposal Page One. List your name, institutional affiliation (if any), current employment/endeavor, mailing address, email address, website (if any), telephone and fax numbers, and a brief project title. At the end of the page, let us know whether you have received a grant from OPUS in the past, or where you learned about OPUS.

Proposal Page Two. The second page of the proposal should consist of a summary of the proposed research project. Please address the following:

1. Describe your proposed project. State the mission or vision, and address how your project seeks and supports a planetary, evolutionary, sustainable new mythos or story.
2. What specifically is the intended product of your project, i.e. film, dissertation, curriculum module, novel, art series, a social, environmental, peace & reconciliation project, etc. Please describe briefly how you envision the development of the project - research plan, work flow, studio time.
3. Describe your expertise in the academic areas of mythology and depth psychology. Please state your unique qualification to forward the particular project that you propose.

Proposal Page Three. Describe in detail your anticipated use of OPUS' collections. Please address the following:

1. Please discuss specific collection materials and their relevance to the project.
2. What do you believe your work will add to the understanding of the scholar(s) and their contribution to the new mythos?

3. How do you vision the use of OPUS' archives as specifically supporting this project? How might your study potentially forward the public's awareness of the subject matter held by OPUS?

Proposal Page Four. The final page of the proposal should consist of an abbreviated one-page *curriculum vitae* stressing relevant projects and/or publications. No other items should be appended to the proposal, which should not exceed *four pages* in length.

Letter of Recommendation. Applicants must have one confidential letter of recommendation sent to OPUS from an individual who is qualified to judge the proposal. All letters are to be submitted to OPUS in a **sealed and signed** envelope. Please be sure that the name of the applicant is clearly indicated at the top of the letter. Faxed and emailed letters will not be accepted.

Letter of recommendation should be sent to:

OPUS Archives & Research Center
ATTN: New Mythos Grant
801 Ladera Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Application Deadline. Complete applications for the New Mythos Grant must be **received** by September 15, 2009. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. OPUS will acknowledge the receipt of complete applications by an email.

Award Announcement. Awards will be announced by email on or before November 20, 2009. Queries about applications in process cannot be acknowledged. Award winners and their research projects will be acknowledged in OPUS publicity.

RESPONSIBILITY AND EXPECTATIONS OF GRANTEES

Time in Archives. Grant recipients are required to spend a minimum of five (5) days in the archives doing active research. Research is to be conducted between December 1, 2009 and December 1, 2010.

Preliminary Research Report. A four (4) page write up of preliminary research findings including quotes, entries, materials, etc. that are pertinent to the vision of a new story or cultural transformation at this present time in history is required. This is expected within one (1) month of research visit.

Final Report. All grantees are asked to write a brief four (4) page research report on their work at OPUS to be submitted within three (3) months after the grant year has been completed. The report should include what was learned in the archives and how that informs their project and its manifestation.

Final Project. Grantees are to provide OPUS with a copy (format to be stipulated on a case by case basis) of the final project and plan for its publication, viewing, etc... Copies of the projects will be held by OPUS Archives and used at OPUS' discretion. Further, any work produced from the grant must include acknowledgment of OPUS Archives & Research Center in any public dissemination.