The IHC supports interdisciplinary research and public programs that advance knowledge about human experience in social, historical, and cultural contexts. Its collaborative programs in community engagement demonstrate the ways in which the humanities provide tools that reinforce the values of a democratic society.

Resources for Graduate Students
The IHC provides research funding to graduate students through a variety of awards, including collaborative research grants, dissertation fellowships, and visual, performing, and media arts awards. The IHC also sponsors Research Focus Groups that meet several times each quarter to share research on a given topic.

Public Humanities programs at the IHC advance civic engagement through scholarly and creative work in the humanities and arts. UCSB graduate students engage with community partners in the Santa Barbara area and beyond in collaborative problem solving and public creation and discovery. These programs employ graduate students to serve as instructors in a prison correspondence course and in local elementary schools teaching courses in art and theater.

The IHC is home to the Public Humanities Graduate Fellows Program, which prepares doctoral students for careers as dynamic, socially-engaged humanists both within and beyond the academy. Through seminars, practical experience, and a capstone project, Public Humanities Graduate Fellows become conversant with the history, theories, and methods of public humanities. They gain insight into the social reach and relevance of their scholarship and learn how to be publicly-engaged academics. Graduate Fellows also complete a practicum in which they use their skills in a variety of social and professional environments, including cultural institutions, government, education administration, and non-profit organizations.

Another cornerstone of the IHC’s activities is its year-long public events series, which features scholars, community members, public figures, and performing and visual artists, who explore topics and issues of far-reaching concern through perspectives and practices unique to the humanistic disciplines. The series is organized around a different theme each year; the 2019–20 theme is Critical Mass. IHC events also include lectures, seminars and conferences organized by IHC research focus groups and sub-units as well as events cosponsored with campus departments.

Learn more and sign up for our Events and Funding Opportunities email lists at www.ihc.ucsb.edu.

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