

Call for Community Project Proposals (Round 2) Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia Project (MAAV) Funded by The Mellon Foundation

Questions? Visit moremountainstories.org or contact maav@vt.edu

Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia (MAAV) is seeking proposals from community members, community groups, educators, activists, and regional artists for publicly engaged projects. Proposed projects should be aligned with MAAV's directive to assist communities' efforts to reclaim, amplify, imagine, reinterpret, document, and display histories and experiences that highlight collective struggles for the vitality of people and our shared environment, especially by and for people whose stories have been silenced, denied, or excluded.

MAAV will support the creation of four to six community-led projects across Appalachian Virginia with up to \$305,000 in funding per project. We recognize that state boundaries are artifacts of colonialism and that cultural and social relationships extend beyond these borders. We welcome applications from Appalachian Virginia and adjacent areas stewarded by Indigenous groups with ancestral relationships to present-day western Virginia.

Timeline:

- September 26, 2023: Call for Proposals published
- December 4, 2023, noon: Q&A session for potential applicants (*Register at moremountainstories.org/events*)
- **January 10, 2024: Proposals Due (5:00 pm ET)**
- January 17: MAAV leadership team* screens proposals
- February 1: Advisory Board review (*Learn more about the MAAV Advisory Board at moremountainstories.org/people*)
- February: Phone and email consultations with finalists
- **March 4, 2024: Additional Information Due (5:00 pm ET)**
- March 14: Advisory Board review
- May 2024: Selected Projects Announced
- Fall 2025: Project unveilings

*MAAV leadership team = Co-directors Katrina Powell and Emily Satterwhite, Project Coordinator Lauren Trice, Postdoctoral Fellow Sarah Plummer, Graduate Research Assistant and Community Engagement Specialist Amber Wendler

What is a monument?

MAAV follows Monument Lab's expansive definition of a monument as "a statement of power and presence in public." MAAV encourages unconventional public history and/or public arts projects in a wide variety of formats including but not limited to figurative or non-figurative statues, sculptures, or other works of art; physical or digital exhibits; interpretative signage; performances or festivals; archives; or oral histories. Projects may also amplify or interpret existing monuments in a way that reshapes public spaces.

MAAV has identified the following topics for prioritization: the diversity of Appalachian communities (with regard to race, ethnicity, indigeneity, national origin, sexuality, and more); movement across the landscape via migration and population displacement; resource extraction and environmental change; and collective struggles for social justice including anti-racist, environmental justice, feminist, and labor movements.

MAAV Criteria for Proposal Evaluation:

Articulation of alignment with MAAV's Mission

Will the project be publicly accessible and promote stories that are not already represented in public spaces? Does the project commemorate communities' efforts to reclaim, amplify, imagine, reinterpret, document, and display histories and experiences that highlight their collective struggles for the vitality of people and our shared environment? Does the project connect local memories and moments to broader Appalachian and global stories and issues? If the proposal occupies an existing commemorative site, does it contextualize or recontextualize the space to tell stories that have not yet been told?

Community Leadership

Does the project represent storytelling by and for the community it represents? Does the project represent a community-defined aspiration, challenge, or vision?

Goals and Outcomes

Does the proposal articulate an intellectual vision and/or aesthetic direction? Does the project expand our understanding of what a monument can be? Does the application indicate how this project will educate, benefit, define, or further impact the community in which it exists? Will the project have continued usefulness in and for the communities represented? Does the project offer both an event/time-bound component and a permanent dimension?



Budget

Does the budget reflect MAAV values? For example, does the application indicate that artists, community organizations, and other collaborators will be equitably compensated?

Project Funding and Support:

MAAV Community Projects will receive the following funding and support from MAAV:

- Between \$60,000 and \$95,000 paid directly to a community organization to support its work on the monument project;
- Between \$140,000 and \$210,000 for artistic processes, monument design, materials, and installation;
- Technical and artistic support provided by the MAAV Resource Team to help the project succeed;
- A dedicated undergraduate assistant paid by MAAV to support the project.

Additionally,

- Projects working to identify an artist/practitioner to bring their concept to life can have support finding and choosing an artist.
- MAAV can help a project identify a VT Faculty Partner who will receive a one-time summer salary stipend of \$7,500 and one (1) course buyout.

Project Timeline:

MAAV will notify awarded project teams in May 2024. MAAV anticipates project launches, unveilings, and presentations will take place in October 2025. Project timelines may differ based on need.

To Apply:

There is a two stage proposal process. Interested community groups should submit an application by January 10, 2024. Projects selected for further review will receive feedback in early February 2024.

Application available at moremountainstories.org/apply or with the QR code.



Finalists will be asked to provide the following by March 4, 2024:

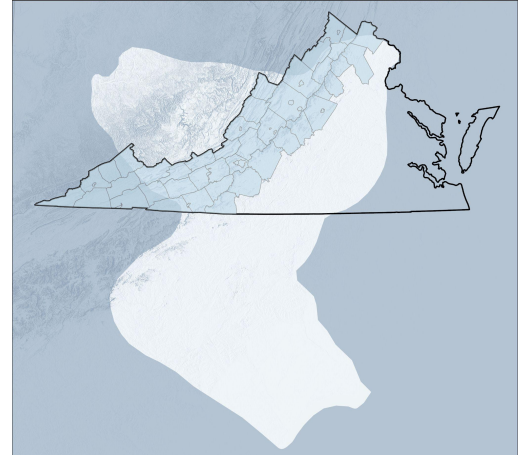
- Landowner and/or Government Official Acknowledgement (see page 8)
- Project timeline
- Revised budget
- Plans for continued usefulness, project maintenance, archiving, or preservation, as applicable

Eligibility

MAAV welcomes applications for projects at sites throughout Appalachian Virginia and from Indigenous peoples with a historical connection to present-day western Virginia.



Appalachian Virginia. This map shows Appalachian Virginia as designated by Ann Dewitt Watts' Terrain Map (*Southeastern Geographer*, 1978) plus John Alexander Williams' Loosely Constructed definition (*Journal of Appalachian Studies*, 1966). This combination is one of the most inclusive definitions of Appalachian Virginia available. Map by Stewart Scales, 2023.



Appalachian Virginia overlaid on homelands of Eastern Siouan speaking peoples circa 1650. Map by Stewart Scales, 2023.



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AND DISPLACEMENT STUDIES
VIRGINIA TECH.



Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia Community Project Application (Round 2)

The following information will be due January 10, 2024 (5:00 pm
ET) via online form available at

www.moremountainstories.org/apply and via this QR code



Your Email Address:

Project Contact Name:

Project Contact Phone Number (111) 111-1111:

Proposed Project Location(s):

Working Title of Project:

Project Summary: *In one sentence, describe your proposed project.*

We give MAAV permission to share our working title and project summary publicly, whether or not our project is selected for additional review.

Yes

No

Vision and Rationale for the Project

Please tell us the following about your proposed project (800 words maximum).

What stories or histories is your project engaging? Why?

How do you envision it physically represented in the world?

How does the public engage with your project and/or contribute to your research?

What impacts do you hope to see from your project?

How does your project fit within MAAV's stated mission to (1) promote communities' ability to tell counter-narratives that push back on dominant stories and that are not already represented in public spaces, (2) connect local memories and moments to broader Appalachian and global stories and issues, (3) create events and installations that will have continued usefulness or impact in and for the communities they represent, and (4) focus on one or more of the following:

- *The diversity of Appalachian communities with regard to race, ethnicity, indigeneity, national origin, sexuality, and more;*
- *Movement across the landscape via migration and population displacement;*
- *Resource extraction and environmental change; and*
- *Collective struggles for social justice including feminist, anti-racist, environmental justice, and labor movements;*
- *Other collective struggles for the vitality of people and our shared environment.*

Community Organization/Group

Is this project affiliated with a community organization or other group? If so, in 150 - 300 words, tell us about the organization(s). Please provide links to website/social media, if applicable.

Is your project part of a larger campaign or ongoing initiative?

- Yes
- No
- It could be, but we're just getting started

If your project is part of a larger campaign or ongoing initiative, please (briefly) tell us more about that context.

MAAV will connect you with a Virginia Tech faculty member to assist you with your project. Is there a particular faculty member with whom you know you'd like to work?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please list the Virginia Tech Faculty member.

**If no, what particular skills or attributes would you prioritize in a faculty partner?
Please list them here.**

Preliminary Budget

Projects will receive 1) \$60,000 to \$95,000 paid directly to community organizations for staffing or other needs to support their involvement and 2) \$140,000 to \$210,000 for artistic processes, monument design, materials, installation, and products.

How will your project allocate up to \$95,000 to community organizations for staffing or other needs (travel, supplies, participant compensation, equipment)? Please be as specific as possible.

How will your project allocate up to \$210,000 for artistic processes, monument design, materials, installation, and products? Please be as specific as possible.

You may download this excel sheet if it's useful to you for your planning.

Do you have a fiscal sponsor?

A fiscal sponsor is an organization or agency that can receive and disburse grant funds on your behalf.

- Yes
- No
- No, but we know who our fiscal sponsor should be

Please provide the name of the current or prospective fiscal sponsor.

Optional Supplemental Materials

Attach any other relevant photos, videos, and/or documents that you would like us to consider as part of this application. Label your uploads with your Project's Working Title. Photos (up to 4) or video (2 minutes max) welcome but not required. (Maximum file size 10MB)

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Land Owner and/or Government Official Acknowledgement

[Name(s) and Community organization(s)] have applied for a grant from Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia (MAAV) for a publicly engaged project meant to document and display histories and experiences that have been silenced, denied, or excluded across Appalachian Virginia and Eastern Siouan lands. As part of this proposed project, public art, a monument, interpretive signage, or other temporary performance may occur on public or private land.

As a private landowner, your signature acknowledges your intent to work with [Name and Community Organization] to explore the possibility of housing/displaying an installation on your land.

If you are a public official or town representative, your signature acknowledges that you have discussed the proposed project with applicants and you are willing to assist and/or liaison between the applicants and governing agencies to receive the permits and approvals needed to complete the project.

Landowner Name	Signature	Date
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Landowner Name	Signature	Date
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Government Official Name and Title	Signature	Date
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Government Official Name and Title	Signature	Date
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About MAAV

Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia documents and commemorates histories and experiences that have been silenced, denied, or excluded. Across a three-year period, MAAV anticipates creating six to ten new monuments with a focus on: the diversity of communities with regard to race, ethnicity, indigeneity, national origin, sexuality, and more; movement across the landscape via migration and population displacement; resource extraction and environmental change; and struggles for social justice including anti-racist, environmental justice, feminist, and labor movements.

Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia is a collaboration between the Appalachian Studies Program and the Center for Migration, Displacement, and Refugee Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Virginia Tech and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. MAAV received \$3 million as part of a \$250 million initiative begun in 2020 by the Mellon Foundation to support public projects across the country.