Tom Lea Research Fellowship

The College of Liberal Arts is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for the 2020 Tom Lea Research Fellows Program. The Tom Lea Research Fellows Program was established in 2013 by Dee and Adair Margo to encourage high level research using primary documents related to the art, literature and life of Tom Lea, a nationally renowned painter, illustrator, muralist, and author from El Paso whose works have been exhibited across the nation, including in the White House and at the El Paso Museum of Art. A classically trained artist, Lea’s work primarily communicates the environment and history of the Paso del Norte region of Texas, New Mexico, and Chihuahua. Fellows are expected to undertake a publication-quality research project focused on Tom Lea, his art, his writing, his role in the art of El Paso/Texas/the United States, the classical ideas and training that informed his work, or theoretical premises that may relate to understanding Lea’s work.

The Tom Lea Fellowship will award $3,500 per fellow. The award period is June to December 2020.

The fellowship is open to current graduate and undergraduate students in any department or program in the College of Liberal Arts who would like to investigate a research topic project related to Tom Lea. Sample types of projects include the following:

- A scholarly work based on primary documents related to Tom Lea
- A scholarly or creative work that furthers the knowledge of Tom Lea (and his work, including his art, his writing, or other)
- A project that enlivens knowledge or understanding of the Tom Lea Trail
- A project that contributes to Tom Lea curricula used at school districts in the El Paso area

Fellowship Requirements
Fellows are expected to make use of resources in the El Paso area, including the Tom Lea Institute, the El Paso Museum of Art, and Special Collections at the UTEP Library. Fellows are required to make at least one research appointment and consultation with staff from the Tom Lea Institute. Recipients of the fellowship will produce a research document (generally article-length) or portfolio to be shared with the fellowship donors as well as the Tom Lea Institute. Additionally, the fellows should plan to deliver a public research presentation (twenty to thirty minutes), preferably during Tom Lea Month in October of 2020.

Application and Deadlines
To apply for this fellowship, candidates should complete the attached application and return it to the College no later than February 14, 2020. The application will be judged by a committee of faculty from the College. Awards will be announced on March 15, 2020. Return the complete application package to Estella Estrada, Office of the Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Liberal Arts Room 343. Please direct application questions to Dr. Melissa Warak, Fellowship Liaison, at mcwarak@utep.edu

Application checklist:
1) Application form
2) Research Proposal and Professional Narrative
3) Curriculum Vitae
4) Tentative budget and timeline for research
5) Two letters of recommendation
Tom Lea Research Fellowship

APPLICATION FORM

Name: ___________________  UTEP ID#: ______________________________

Email: ________________________________

Major and Minor:

Expected date of graduation:

Faculty member who will serve as the primary research advisor or consultant for the project:

Research Proposal

You should submit a research proposal that includes the following sections:

1) 500-word research proposal. What is your project topic and research methodology? What new contributions will your project make toward a more comprehensive understanding of Tom Lea?

2) 500-word professional narrative. In your narrative, describe your current research/creative activities and progress towards the completion of your degree. Why do you believe you are a worthy recipient of this award and in what ways have you demonstrated outstanding academic achievement? How will a Tom Lea Fellowship make use of your research skills? What is your long-term professional goal? How will a Tom Lea Fellowship help you reach that goal?

Curriculum Vitae

Please attach a current curriculum vitae (two pages, maximum), which is a summary of your academic achievements. Students are encouraged to make an appointment with the University Career Center (https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/careers/) for assistance in writing a c.v.

Budget and Timeline

Please include a brief budget for expected expenses related to the fellowship (books, travel, equipment, living expenses, etc.). Please also include a short month-by-month timeline (in outline format is fine) for anticipated completion of different phases of your research. This should be one page maximum.

Letters of Recommendation

Please include two letters of recommendation from faculty who can speak positively toward your qualifications, achievements, research, writing, and presentation skills (if applicable). Letters should be in sealed envelopes. UTEP suggests requesting letters from recommenders at least a month in advance of the due date.

SIGNATURE: ________________________________  DATE: ____________________