

Tom Lea Research Fellowship

The College of Liberal Arts is accepting applications for the 2024 Tom Lea Research Fellows Program. Established in 2013 by Dee and Adair Margo, this competitive fellowship aims to encourage high level research using primary documents related to the art, literature, and life of Tom Lea.

Fellows are expected to undertake a publication quality research project focused on Tom Lea, his art, his writing, his influence in other artists' work, the classical ideas and training that informed his literary and artistic production, 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 2024**. In case the applications received do not meet this call's expectations, fellowship funds will be transferred onto the next cycle.

The fellowship is open to current graduate and undergraduate students, as well as faculty in any department or program in the College of Liberal Arts. Examples of projects that will be considered are:

- 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 or Lea's work in a global context
- A project that contributes to Tom Lea curricula used at school districts in the El Paso area
- Other possible projects are listed in this link ([PDF](#))

Fellowship Requirements

Fellows are expected to utilize resources in the El Paso area, including the Tom Lea Institute, the El Paso Museum of Art*, and the Special Collections at the UTEP Library. Preference will be given to projects that involve research at the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.

To receive the total amount of the award, recipients of the fellowship will produce either a publishable research article in their academic field or a portfolio in the case of fine arts undergraduate student, submitted by February 15, 2025. This work is to be shared with the College of Liberal Arts, the fellowship donors, and the Tom Lea Institute. Fellows are responsible for any taxes that may arise from this award.

Application and Deadlines

To apply for this fellowship, candidates should complete the attached application and return it to the College no later than Friday, March 3, 2024. Awards will be announced on April 21, 2024. Award recipients will be selected through a competitive application process.

- Email the application as a single PDF to Dr. Selfa A. Chew-Melendez, Office of the Dean, at sachewsmithart@utep.edu by 5:00 pm on March 3, 2024.
- Please direct application questions to Dr. Selfa A. Chew-Melendez at sachewsmithart@utep.edu.

Application checklist:

- 1) Application form
- 2) Research Proposal and Professional Narrative
- 3) Curriculum Vitae
- 4) Tentative budget and timeline for research
- 5) One letter of recommendation from the student's project advisor OR (for faculty applicants) a letter of support from their chair or program director.

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APPLICATION FORM (STUDENT)

Name: _____ UTEP ID#: _____

Email: _____

Major and Minor or graduate program:

Expected date of graduation:

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

Research Proposal

Research proposals must include the following:

- 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. 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

Submit 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 this item.

Budget and Timeline

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.

Letter of Recommendation

Submit a letter of recommendation from the faculty member who will advise your research project and who can speak positively toward your proposed project, qualifications, achievements, research, writing, and presentation skills (if applicable). Recommenders should email their letters directly to Dr. Selfa A. Chew-Melendez (sachewsmithart@utep.edu). UTEP suggests requesting letters from recommenders several weeks in advance of the due date.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

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APPLICATION FORM (FACULTY)

Name: _____

Position: _____

Email: _____

Department: _____

Research Proposal

Include the following two sections:

- 3) 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?
- 4) 500-word professional narrative. In your narrative, describe your current research/creative activities. How will a Tom Lea Fellowship make use of your research skills and progress your research agenda or portfolio?

Curriculum Vitae

Attach a current curriculum vitae (two pages, maximum).

Budget and Timeline

Include a brief budget for expected expenses related to the fellowship (books, travel, equipment, living expenses, etc.). Submit a short month-by-month timeline for anticipated completion of different phases of your research. This should be one page maximum.

Letter of Support

Please request a letter of support from your department Chair. Chairs should email their letters directly to Dr. Selfa A. Chew-Melendez (sachewsmithart@utep.edu) by March 3, 2024.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____