

Tom Lea Research Fellowship

The College of Liberal Arts is accepting applications for the 2026 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 January to July 2026. 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 December 1, 2026. 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

- Complete the application at the following link by 5:00 pm on January 19th, 2026
 - Students apply here: <https://forms.office.com/r/WjrFHe5CCe>
 - Faculty apply here: <https://forms.office.com/r/hn4VhQPggZ>
- Please direct application questions to Dr. Mimi Gladstein at mgladstein@utep.edu and Dr. Joseph Ortiz at jmortiz7@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.