Memo

To: Arts & Humanities Chairs & Directors
From: E. Bruce Pitman, Dean
Date: May 23, 2016
Re: Call for Proposals: WBFO Endowment

Installation artist Isaac Julien (http://www.isaacjulien.com/home) will be the 2016-17 WBFO Visiting Professor. Our inaugural WBFO Visiting Professor in the Arts was Doug Fitch (www.douglasfitch.com), who worked with students and faculty in Music and Theatre & Dance to devise, design, and direct a production in November 2014. The 2015-16 WBFO Visiting Professor in the Arts was Shelley Jackson (www.ineradicablestain.com), fiction writer and conceptual artist known for her cross-genre experiments, who worked primarily with UB students and faculty in Media Study and English.

Departments interested in inviting a candidate for this Visiting Professorship for AY 2017/18, should compile a nomination proposal. I am requesting proposals be submitted to casdean@buffalo.edu by October 15, 2016. Individuals appointed to this Visiting Professorship will be of the highest level of scholarship and creative activity. Ideally the visit should lead to some kind of lasting marker of the time spent at UB – a paper, a book, a piece of art or a performance.

Proposals will include:

1. The individual’s CV.
2. The engagement of at least two departments in the arts and humanities.
3. A one-page statement of how the individual fits into current practice and curricula; the residency outcome and its impact on UB, its scholars and students; a plan for the teaching and scholarship the individual will perform (in both nominating departments) while at UB, with a list of courses the individual will teach or contribute to. The goal is to bring onto campus an individual of renown, who will broadly impact our students and the departments.
4. Clear information about the timetable of a visit.
5. A budget request.

You recall that $1M from the sale of WBFO has been designated as the WBFO Visiting Professorship in the Arts. From the UB Foundation, then, one may expect a little less than $40,000/yr to be spun off to cover all expenditures. This amount is obviously not sufficient to pay the salary, fringe benefits, and living expenses for a visitor of the caliber we wish to attract, for an entire semester. Therefore we should be creative in our approach. Perhaps the individual could visit twice at either end of a semester, and a UB person could take over a course in the middle. Or perhaps the individual could visit during April, May, and some of June, and teach a few classes both in the Spring and Summer semesters. You might have other ideas. Of course if a department has other funds that might be added, additional options open up.