Bridging the Humanities

Foundational, transferable, and enduring, the humanities constitute the intellectual cornerstone of a comprehensive university like UC San Diego. The humanities train all students to think critically, express creatively, and communicate clearly. The humanities reflect a spirit of innovation and inclusiveness, develop a global perspective, and promote the cultivation of integrity as foundational to a long-lasting education for the common good.

To amplify our impact across campus, our region, and society, a new state-of-the-art building in the North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood will give architectural form to these values by bringing together programs of the Division of Arts and Humanities. Notably, all three departments of the humanities — History, Literature and Philosophy — will be gathered in the same space for the first time in the university’s history — multiplying opportunities for research and teaching, and facilitating structured and informal collaborations with partners on and off campus.

Other programs housed in the building will include the Institute of Arts and Humanities and the Analytical Writing Program, initiatives key to extending the scholarly fundamentals derived from the humanities to the full spectrum of academic knowledge.

Your support of Bridging the Humanities through the Campaign for UC San Diego will be critical to the division’s work in forging connections between individual scholars, departments, and multidisciplinary programs.
Unifying excellence

As UC San Diego has grown, the departments of the Humanities have been located in different areas across campus. For the first time ever, the opening of the new Arts and Humanities Building in the dynamic Living and Learning Neighborhood will bring them together under a single roof.

The Arts and Humanities Building will be adjacent to a new Division of Social Sciences facility in the same complex, increasing the opportunity for ready contact and collaboration with closely aligned colleagues.

The growth of life sciences and high-tech enterprises on the Torrey Pines Mesa is a testament to the energy, productivity, and growth that is unleashed when creators are closely connected. We are thrilled that this new structure will create a physical hub for the generation of theories and ideas that evolve through dialogue, discussion, and reinterpretation.

In addition to the Departments of History, Literature, and Philosophy, the building will also house the Dean’s Office, the Institute of Arts and Humanities, and the Analytical Writing Program, activities that offer sustaining resources for all those involved with our division, from first-year students to internationally distinguished scholars.

The Analytical Writing Program develops critical thinking and analytic expression skills of first-generation, underrepresented, and international students.

The Division of Arts and Humanities provides undergraduates with opportunities to deepen engagement in their fields, make interdisciplinary connections to further define their academic interests, showcase their research projects, and hear from speakers who have followed their hearts to fulfilling careers.
Foundational, transferable, and enduring

\textit{Bridging the Humanities} extends the strategic, programmatic vision of the Division of Arts and Humanities. Our vision is oriented around primary aspects of our disciplines: they are foundational, transferable, and enduring. New activities and the recalibration of existing activities are designed with this guiding framework in mind.

Driving this effort is the newly launched \textit{Institute of Arts and Humanities (IAH)}, occupying a full floor of the new Arts and Humanities building. IAH concentrates the promise and practice of humanism as knowledge for the common good.

Committed to the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion, the IAH generates connections and crosses boundaries between departments and disciplines, supporting long-standing endeavors such as the Center for Hellenic Studies, Jewish Studies, Chinese Studies, and numerous interdisciplinary programs while encouraging new collaborations around timely topics.

Also in the Arts and Humanities Building, the \textit{Analytical Writing Program} prepares undergraduate students from across campus for the rigorous written expression necessary for their development in all disciplines. It creates an environment in which a diverse population of students can come together as a community to work on a common goal: improving their writing.

“The students and faculty of the division are part of a global community of learners and scholars who bring their expertise to bear on shared issues and concerns. Recognizing the power of diverse yet complementary scholarship, we reach out to one another — and to the sciences and social sciences — to expand, test, and transform the existing conventions of intellectual exchange. We build bridges between learning and doing, every day.”

Cristina Dieli Coletta
Dean of Arts and Humanities
Chancellor’s Associates Chair in Italian Literature

A small group of UC San Diego and UCLA graduate students examine newly uncovered Islamic manuscripts from the 16th to 18th centuries.

A “Podcasting the Humanities” workshop is part of an Institute of Arts and Humanities Initiative to craft collaboration and community on campus — digitally.
With approximately 60,410 square feet spread over nine floors, the Arts and Humanities Building will center the core activities of our division to an unprecedented degree.

A physical hub for ideas and ideals to thrive

The following spaces will house units and the activities under their direct purview, while common areas in the lobby and all floors will activate connections, conversations, and community.

Arts and Humanities Dean
The Dean of the Division of Arts and Humanities carries the singular responsibility of representing our disciplines and initiatives in the recruitment of new faculty, dialogue with prominent external stakeholders, and convening of cross-campus discussions on our strategy and effectiveness. Offices of the Dean will accommodate working space for professionals at many levels, meeting space, and a welcoming, inspiring reception area.

Analytical Writing
An academic unit serving the undergraduate population, the Analytical Writing Program is designed to help first-year students master the critical thinking, reading, and writing skills to enable them to succeed at the university and in their professional lives. Faculty will benefit from a blend of quiet and collaborative spaces.

Institute of Arts and Humanities
IAH activities serve scholars at all levels of our campus community, as well as members of the public representing the larger span of our work. Facilities will be open, inviting, and appealing to the public, with the flow of visitors coordinated by a welcoming reception area.

Department of History
History at UC San Diego reflects our university's leadership as a research institution of the first order, with exploration across regions and themes making the most of digital scholarship techniques. Faculty and students will benefit from quiet space for research, common areas for collaboration, and facilities for lively, engaging presentations.

Department of Literature
Literature at UC San Diego is unique for its abundant representation of world literatures, languages, and theory, supporting deep specialization or creative cross-disciplinary study shaped by each learner or scholar’s intellectual journey. Faculty and students will benefit from space that is vibrant, active, and positioned to be a port where literature students can find the support they need.

Department of Philosophy
Philosophy at UC San Diego lives at the intersection of science, technology, health, social sciences, and other disciplines of the arts and humanities, optimizing this campus’s fluid, future-building culture. Faculty, lecturers, visiting scholars, and other visitors will benefit from spaces supportive of focused study, mentorship, or advising.
It takes a collective effort to create an environment that celebrates experimentation, collaboration, and courage.

With your gift, you join us in Bridging the Humanities within the North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood — a fulcrum for our campus and our vision for the future of higher education. Your support will accelerate how we create bonds between faculty exploration, enrich the experience of our students, and bridge what we discover about human experience to our regional, national, and international communities.

Through the Campaign for UC San Diego, contributions may be recognized within the Arts and Humanities building at levels commensurate with the size of your gift, signaling to our community your patronage of or loyalty to disciplines integral to our ever-evolving culture and your commitment to equipping students with skills to last their lifetimes.

Thank you for supporting the Arts and Humanities as they are uniquely embodied at UC San Diego. As we grow new knowledge through the cultivation of thought, we celebrate those philanthropists who join us as creators.

Help us continue the nontradition.

The “Age of Sail” class is an example of humanities instruction in the public sphere.

The Arts and Humanities Building will be a hub for a vibrant living-learning community, featuring student residences, dining and retail facilities, and common areas.
For more information about supporting the arts and humanities at UC San Diego or making other contributions to advance our vital work, please contact:

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