

APPLICATION – please follow the format provided below.

- A. **Abstract:** *(100 word limit using Microsoft Word – please post word count at the end of your abstract)* Describe briefly how the funds for which you are applying will be used. If funded, the abstract will be posted to the CoTA website.

In 2019, I will travel to Tijuana, Mexico to continue a bi-national collaboration with esteemed choreographer/performer Celeste Miller (USA), Atlanta-based videographer Melisa Cardona and my company, Mujeres en Ritual Danza-Teatro. We are in the process of creating a physical theatre/dance performance, with text and video projections, titled *Women at Waters Edge/Mujeres al filo del Agua*, which will premiere in June 2019. The video will be filmed at a site-specific location, at the U.S. Mexico border in Tijuana. I am requesting funds to support the costs of the filming and editing of the video for this production.

(96 words)

Proposal: *(500 word limit using Microsoft Word – please post word count at the end of your proposal)* Describe the goals of your project / activity / conference and the areas in which your project supports the strategic goals and objectives of the unit, college and university.

This creative research project will culminate in a multimedia performance created through devised theatre methodologies, with original text, choreography and video. The title, *Women at Water's Edge* relates to global warming, women's rights, and the question of shifting borders/boundaries/edges – from natural forces that change boundaries, to political forces that change borders, or delineate them. This project is being created through a multi-site process of building/collaborating in various locations, where the lead artists have roots, with the communities in those places. The places where we have been developing the work include: Tijuana, Mexico; Grinnell, Iowa; and Tampa, Florida. Our collaboration allows us to keep cultivating our potential to be “response-able” global citizens in times of turmoil. We explore the places and moments where we find strong connection, as we bring international perspectives together to explore women's rights and the intersections with these issues.

In March 2019, we will travel together to Tijuana, Mexico for the next phase of development for the project, focused on developing the video component. The US-Mexico border is an extremely contested political site, literally and metaphorically. Tijuana is a location where the physical border fence that divides Mexico and California (USA) extends into the water, the Pacific Ocean. The video that we will produce will include images of this site, and members of my company, Mujeres en Ritual Danza-Teatro, performing there. The video element is a key part of the aesthetic and meaning of the work, as a cross-border collaboration with women on both sides. The video will become an archive of the transnational process through which we created the choreography and actions, presented in dialogic relationship with the live performance as the piece tours in the United States.

Melisa Cardona is a first generation queer Latinx artist who grew up between Atlanta, GA and her parents' native land of Colombia. Cardona's award-winning photography has been published in *The New York Times*, *American Theater Magazine*, *Times Picayune*, *Creative Loafing*, *Inside Arts Magazine*,

BuzzFeed.com and many more. Cardona is an ideal collaborator to create the video for this project because of her bi-national perspective and strong trajectory of documenting and co-creating interdisciplinary performances with theatre artists.

By collaborating with a high-caliber and prestigious, interdisciplinary and multi-national artistic team, this project directly supports Goal 1 of the primary performance indicators of the University: “Expanding world-class interdisciplinary research, creative and scholarly endeavors.” Also, by developing and disseminating my creative research, national and internationally, the project contributes to Goal 2, “Promoting globally competitive undergraduate, graduate and professional programs that support interdisciplinary inquiry, intellectual development, knowledge and skill acquisition.” More specifically, by creating this project in two countries, it supports the values of the College of the Arts with an active involvement in local, national, and international discipline-based dialogue. It contains interdisciplinary and collaborative opportunities, community engagement and partnerships.

(467 words)

B. Anticipated Benefits: *(250 word limit using Microsoft Word – please post word count at the end of your anticipated benefits)* Describe the ways in which the proposed goals will be used to enhance your research and the impact/significance of the research to your discipline.

This project furthers my on-going interdisciplinary creative research and solidifies my artistic collaborations globally. This creative research will have a positive impact on my research, because the collaboration with dance, theatre, sound and technology will expand my methodologies for creating performance work. This process pushes the envelope as a devising process that is distinctly different from traditional theatre and dance approaches, and offers new possibilities for creating interdisciplinary performance. The long-term impact of this work, beyond the grant period, includes: further artistic and professional development, and a June 2019 premiere adding significance body of work to my discipline. Dissemination of my work will be through national and international touring and conference presentations.

This project gives me the opportunity to further utilize video projections and multimedia, to elevate new dimensions of my performance work that I would like to continue exploring. In addition to expanding this element of contemporary aesthetics in my work, I am researching the concept of “virtual border-crossings,” allowing artists to travel internationally through contemporary media, to interrogate the structures that regulate women’s bodies to prevent mobility and visibility.

(181 words)