



June 5, 2015

Dear AUB community members,

I am extremely pleased to announce that AUB has received a grant for \$2,000,000 over five years from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the establishment of the Center for Arts and Humanities.

The grant is the largest Mellon Foundation commitment to the University to date.

The award strongly positions AUB to establish a permanent Center for Arts and Humanities as the regional intellectual base for innovative and interdisciplinary curricular development and teaching, as well as for scholarly humanistic and artistic production.

Building on the remarkable success of the Arts and Humanities Initiative, generously supported by the Foundation since its inception in 2012, this award reaffirms the critical global importance of liberal arts education and AUB's leading role in this regard.

Previous support from the Foundation has been instrumental in the reinvigoration of the intellectual environment for faculty in the arts and humanities at AUB, and in the creation of a transformational and independent forum for collaborative and interdisciplinary curricular experimentation, research, intellectual dialogue, and production—especially for young thinkers and writers.

In a region undergoing radical transformation, sustaining and expanding our commitment to the arts and humanities is more essential than ever. At a time when cultural legacies and humanistic traditions are at risk of being eroded, the need for critical reflection and research on works created in Arab and other local societies is desperately needed.

This Mellon grant will support an expansive faculty and postdoctoral fellowship program, an artist or writer-in-residence, high profile public arts events, and regional collaboration with scholars and universities, as an alternative site for the production of humanistic knowledge rooted in regional cultures and as an interlocutor for east-west cultural dialogue.

We are deeply grateful to The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for its sustained support, which strengthens AUB's capacity to develop vibrant structures for humanistic research, education, and outreach.

I would like to thank Provost Dallal and his staff, as well as the Arts and Humanities Initiative team, led by Dr. Maher Jarrar during the last three years, for their dedication in this critical effort, and of course we look forward to future successes.

Peter Dorman  
President