



# RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

Where we make a large university feel smaller

Founded in 1967, the Residential College (RC) stands as one of the nation's pioneering living-learning communities. It provides undergraduate students with a distinctive academic and residential experience, combining the close-knit environment of a small college with the vast resources of a premier research university.

At the heart of the RC experience is a two-year residency program emphasizing writing proficiency and language acquisition. This foundational period is followed by an array of upper-level courses that allow students to continue their engagement with a vibrant learning community and the interdisciplinary liberal arts through a variety of courses such as studio arts, or by electing one of four RC Majors (Arts & Ideas in the Humanities, Creative Writing & Literature, Drama, Social Theory & Practice). These advanced offerings are open to all LSA students seeking a dynamic academic environment focused on language, arts, and interdisciplinary studies in the humanities and social sciences.

Four interrelated principles reflect the unique value of an RC education:

- *Critical Thinking:* An RC education trains students to evaluate evidence, interpret points of view, assess, and engage issues across disciplinary boundaries through internships, community service learning, studio arts, and deep engagement with course materials.
- *Active Learning:* The RC empowers students to control their education by providing support and guidance as they engage with the liberal arts, personalize their academic experience, and define their future career aspirations.
- *Bridging Theory and Practice:* The RC living-learning program connects classroom learning and academic study with hands-on experiences on campus, community involvement, and global citizenship.
- *Building Skills for Success:* The RC places a strong emphasis on developing skills such as writing, foreign language fluency, and artistic practice, ensuring students are well-prepared for any and all future endeavors.

The RC is committed to equipping students with essential skills for success, such as problem-solving, communication, and creativity, but also encourages them to push their boundaries and explore new horizons.

Through our core programs and values, we prepare students to thrive in diverse environments, fostering a strong foundation in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and innovative academic civic engagement. Our dedication to language skills and cross-cultural engagement prepares students to be global citizens, ready to make a difference locally, nationally, and internationally.

As we continue to evolve, we are excited to explore new initiatives and innovations that will enhance the student experience and promote integrated learning both inside and outside the classroom. Donor support will help us build on our legacy of excellence and create new opportunities for students to engage deeply with their academic pursuits, foster creative talents, and connect with the broader RC community.

## RC DISCRETIONARY FUND

Expendable, undesignated gifts are vital for the Residential College's ongoing success and growth, benefiting our students and community in a myriad of ways. Gifts to the discretionary fund support key programs and initiatives, enriching the RC experience for everyone involved. This fund helps us implement new ideas from students, faculty, and staff, such as innovative courses, arts projects, language program initiatives, and community-building activities. It also supports team teaching, programming, student employment, and other forms of community engagement. We aim to fund today's experiments that will become tomorrow's strengths. Gifts of all sizes make a significant impact on the RC community.

## THE LIVING-LEARNING FUND

The Living-Learning Fund sustains the distinctive intellectual and social community that sits at the heart of an engaged liberal arts education. This fund supports a variety of community-building activities and leadership training opportunities among RC students. Donations ranging from \$10,000 – \$50,000 annually can support student awards, recognizing achievements like the best thesis, and provide opportunities for skill-building and talent cultivation, such as scholarships to attend the Bear River Writers' Conference, the New England Literature Program (NELP), or other supplemental experiences. Additionally, these funds help us expand our commitment to providing leadership training for all RC students and support student-led initiatives. Your contribution directly impacts our ability to enhance the RC experience for current students.



**“The RC has taught me what it means to be a positive and productive community member. The nurturing environment gave me the confidence to take academic risks, become a more mindful and engaged citizen, and challenge the status quo under which I was raised.”**

**–Katharine Boasberg, LSA '22**



## NAMING THE RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE ART GALLERY

The Residential College presents exciting naming opportunities for donors who support RC programs. One notable opportunity is the RC Art Gallery, a dynamic space at the heart of East Quad. This innovative gallery features exhibits of visiting artists and student works for public viewing, enhancing the arts community at the RC. The RC Art Gallery represents a major naming opportunity in recognition of an endowed gift of \$1M.

## COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

For over four decades, language study and community engagement have been central to the RC's educational mission. The RC houses several community-engagement and service-learning programs that embody these values, including the Spanish Language Internship Program (SLIP), Freedom House Detroit, and the Prison Creative Arts Project.

- *SLIP* places student interns in agencies and organizations in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Southwest Detroit where Spanish is spoken. Interns gain valuable experience applying their language skills in academic and real-world contexts in their local community.
- *Freedom House Detroit* is a shelter providing legal assistance to asylum seekers from Francophone African nations. Here, RC French Language students have the opportunity to do supervised translation work for Freedom House's legal department.
- *The Prison Creative Arts Project (PCAP)* has been facilitating arts workshops in Michigan prisons, treatment centers, and community settings since 1990, in theater, creative writing, visual art, and music. These workshops provide an opportunity for collaborative art-making with an emphasis on connectivity, creativity, and affirmation.

These opportunities are currently unfunded and rely on student volunteers or personal expenses. Annual contributions of \$10,000 - \$50,000 would enable us to support these initiatives, including providing financial assistance for student transportation and participation in service learning courses, making these experiences accessible for more students.

## RC CREATIVE ARTS AND EDUCATION FUND

The RC curriculum is committed to placing the visual and performing arts at the forefront of a liberal arts education. Through the arts practicum RC students delve into the creative process and exhibit their work in an end-of-semester showcase. Down the hall from the studios, the Keene Theater offers a cutting-edge performance space while music rooms provide space for practice and talent acquisition. Gifts ranging from \$10,000 - \$50,000 annually for our RC Creative Arts and Education Fund can support all of our popular programs or be directed to a specific area. Your support helps us continue to nurture creativity and artistic expression in our students, including in the following key areas.

*Shakespeare in the Arb*—Current students, alums, and community members combine talents to stage multiple performances in the Nichols Arboretum each June, with a special “revival” during the Fall Welcome Week in early September. This extremely popular community program is funded on a proverbial shoestring and is in need of support.

*The RC Music Program*—The program offers performance, music theory/composition, and musicology/ethnomusicology. This vibrant program concentrates on the kinds of courses that are not open to non-music majors at the School of Music. Hands-on and deeply collaborative, this program is also dedicated to expanding course and co-curricular offerings in non-western traditions in music and performance. In recent years, these have included the Chinese Music Ensemble, Javanese dance and the Gamelan, Indian dance, Afro-Cuban drumming and other traditions that enhance the breadth and depth of an undergraduate liberal arts education. Gifts would make it possible to continue support for these offerings.

*Visual Arts Student Course Supplies*—The RC is home to multiple visual arts courses, including photography (with the only dark room left on the UM campus!), ceramics, drawing, printmaking, book arts and creative sculpture. Supply costs for these courses have risen over the years, with students having to pay additional course fees in order to participate in the classes. This has created an economic burden on many students, and created a barrier for students who want to take these courses, but do not have the additional funds to pay for course fees, which many times is not covered by financial aid funds. Expendable or established endowment funding to cover visual art material costs will help make these courses more accessible to students with financial restrictions.

*Artist, Writer, or Performer in Residence Program*—Currently the RC offers residencies that bring talented artists, writers and performers into close contact with RC students by offering mini-courses, tutorials, workshops, and master classes. We would like to be able to increase the frequency and kind of residencies we offer. The RC Creative Writing Program is especially interested in selecting an emerging writer for a residency and working with them, in conjunction with local nonprofit or university publishers, to publish their manuscript and to directly involve students in the acquisition, editing, and marketing processes. We also want to focus on artists and performers whose work crosses the boundaries between the arts and humanities and the social sciences, for example a poet who is also an environmental activist, a specialist in ethnographic theater, documentary filmmakers working on issues of mass incarceration, a musician who works simultaneously in digital media, and so forth.



Two Residential College students explore the art of expression within the realms of comedy and tragedy. This scene, part of the course 'Introduction to Comedy and Tragedy,' exemplifies the University of Michigan's commitment to fostering an understanding of the dramatic arts' enduring impact on culture and society.



## SEMESTER IN DETROIT (SID)

The Semester in Detroit transforms students on four campuses (all three U-M campuses and Grand Valley State University) through substantive, sustained and reciprocal relationships with the people, organizations, and neighborhoods of Detroit.

By living, learning, and working in the city, our students engage with community leaders in transformative work—strengthening themselves as well as the wider region. For the semester, students live in Wayne State University dorms or other housing in key Detroit neighborhoods, enroll in a rigorous curriculum taught by Ann Arbor faculty at U-M's Detroit Center, and participate in a community-based internship. As a result of this experience, many students choose to stay in Detroit to live and work. Endowed funding of \$2M is needed to enable more students to participate, regardless of their financial ability. Funding would cover student housing costs, student stipends, and the Semester in Detroit coordinator.

## THE PRISON CREATIVE ARTS PROJECT (PCAP)

Gifts to support PCAP provide funding for this innovative program that brings those impacted by the justice system together with the University of Michigan community for artistic collaboration, mutual learning, and growth. Students develop leadership skills through a rigorous curriculum and by facilitating a visual art, theater, or creative writing workshop inside prison or in community settings.

Activities include: an annual exhibition featuring work by incarcerated artists, an arts program for returning citizens, a literary review, and creative arts workshops. Endowed support would guarantee that PCAP will be able to continue its life changing work in perpetuity. Annual gifts from \$25,000 - \$50,000 are needed to support these areas:

- **Linkage Community:** This program delivers quality artistic programming, professional development, and social support to formerly incarcerated artists and creators. Gifts to this project support professional and student staff and year-round programming for Linkage Community members throughout Michigan.
- **Annual Exhibition of Artists in Michigan Prisons:** The Annual Exhibition encourages the artistic development of incarcerated people and brings their work into the public realm in order to humanize prisoners in the eyes of U-M students and the public. Gifts support artwork selection visits to prisons, curation fees, artwork preparation and installation, student tours, and public engagement activities.
- **Programming and Engagement:** Gifts to PCAP support programming that brings students and incarcerated people into artistic collaborations. Annual funding is needed for student staff assistants, program supplies, a newsletter to incarcerated participants, and publication costs for PCAP's annual literary journal.

## TELLING IT PROGRAM

Telling It provides community-based internship sites for the RC course, “Community Empowerment through the Arts.” The course fosters students’ ability to apply the expressive arts as a catalyst for change in issues of social justice, including as healing tools in response to trauma. Students learn to build upon the existing strengths and resiliency of school-age youth in Washtenaw County, and learn about the impact of racism and classism on access to services and educational resources for historically marginalized residents. Further, students develop the capacity to engage with community members and youth, formulate expressive-arts activities as social emotional and mental health interventions through exposure to engaged-learning practices in the university classroom and at their internships under the supervision of experienced facilitators in this field. The RC course is taught by the founding director of Telling It.

Telling It is a program that prioritizes the needs of young individuals by offering safe, uncensored, and judgment-free spaces. The program strives to cultivate resilience, empower personal strengths, and provide an outlet for processing emotional struggles. By equipping young people with essential skills and support using a blend of expressive arts and social work practices, we aim to create a community that nurtures their well-being and sets them on a path towards success and fulfillment. [lsa.umich.edu/tellingit](https://lsa.umich.edu/tellingit).

Funding is needed to support the following core positions that are critical to the success of the program:

- Program Coordinator: \$27,000 annually
- Licensed Masters Clinical Social Worker: \$34,000 annually
- Team Leader: \$22,000 annually

## WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your partnership connects the college’s rich past to a boundless and bright future. You can change lives with gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities, and create a meaningful legacy through your bequest, trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts. Your generosity makes an impact on what’s next, for a better tomorrow.

*for what’s next ▶*

**Look to Michigan**

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