



\$700,000 learning playlists challenge announced today: designed to scale connected learning

AUSTIN, TX - March 7, 2016 - The University of California Humanities Research Institute (UCHRI), with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, today announced a \$700,000 open international challenge to scale connected learning through innovative learning playlists that close the opportunity gap and help learners succeed in today's connected world. The interdisciplinary alliance HASTAC will help to administer the competition on behalf of UCHRI. Applications are due May 13, 2016.

The 6th Digital Media and Learning Competition - Playlists for Learning - will offer development grants lasting 9 months ranging from \$25,000 to \$125,000. Winning teams will design connected learning playlists that provide viable alternatives to traditional learning pathways while scaling experiences and content to diverse local and digital audiences. Winners will become part of an innovative community of thought-leaders, academics, practitioners, educators, designers, technologists, and media artists that are leading the transformation of curriculum design and learning for the connected age.

"Over a decade, MacArthur has invested over \$200 million in research and design experiments to explore how digital media are changing the way young people learn, play, socialize and participate civically, and to understand what this means for education. These efforts have provided evidence that a new pedagogy called connected learning is an effective approach to preparing youth for the challenges of today's world," said Jennifer Humke, Senior Program Officer at MacArthur. "This competition is designed to bring the most promising connected learning programs and prototypes to youth across the country, and to help transform the way learning is organized and supported, especially for often marginalized young people in cities and beyond."

Learning playlists offer a powerful innovative possibility for ensuring that young people from all backgrounds have the learning opportunities to thrive in our robustly connected age," added David Theo Goldberg, director of the University of California Humanities Research Institute.

Connected learning knits together academics, passions, and interests in ways that meaningfully advance learning and opportunities for youth. A connected learning playlist is a curated group of digital and local connected learning experiences and resources (e.g. videos, websites, books, games, articles, etc.) that are woven together into a sequenced pathway centered on a common theme. They broaden opportunities to engage in cohesive, interest-driven connected learning experiences that combine in-school, out-of-school, employer-based, and online learning.

For more information, please visit dmlcompetition.net.

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ABOUT THE DIGITAL MEDIA AND LEARNING COMPETITION

The Digital Media and Learning Competition is a program designed to find and to inspire the most novel uses of new media in support of connected learning. Over the past eight years, the Competition has awarded over \$12 million to more than 100 projects — including games, mobile phone applications, virtual worlds, social networks, and digital badge platforms — that explore how technologies are changing the way people learn and participate in daily life. The Competition is supported by the [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#) through a grant to the University of California, Irvine.

THE MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation launched its more than \$200 million Digital Media and Learning initiative in 2006 to help determine how digital technologies are changing the way young people, learn, play, socialize, and participate in civic life. A new pedagogical approach, Connected Learning, emerged from these investments to become the framework for reimagining learning in the digital age.

In October 2015, MacArthur provided seed funding to launch [Collective Shift](#), the organization behind the new [LRNG](#) platform, to advance broad adoption of the principles, practices, and products of Connected Learning. The Digital Media and Learning Competition is supported by MacArthur as part of its commitment to advancing the field of digital media and learning.

UCHRI

Based at the UC Irvine campus, [UCHRI](#) serves all ten campuses in the UC system, interacting with UC campus humanities centers, other campus research centers, and with individual faculty to promote collaborative, interdisciplinary humanities research and pedagogy throughout the University of California system and within the larger communities they inhabit. UCHRI supports and showcases fellows, working groups, seminars, conferences, workshops and other research formations, on topics traditional to the humanities in disciplines such as literature, philosophy, classics, languages, and history, as well as the pressing human dimensions that arise in the social and natural sciences, technology, art, medicine, and the professions. Stressing interdisciplinary research, UCHRI bridges gaps between disciplines across the humanities and human sciences and seeks to overcome the intellectual and institutional barriers that can separate the humanities from other fields.

HASTAC

[HASTAC](#) (Humanities, Arts, Science, Technology Alliance and Collaboratory; “haystack”) is an open alliance of more than 14,000 humanists, artists, social scientists, scientists and technologists working together to change the way we teach and learn. Since 2002, HASTAC has served as a community of connection where members share news, tools, research, insights, and projects to promote engaged learning for a global society.

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