Overview
The Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru) is a partnership of almost thirty institutions committed to the expansion of the arts in research universities and ensuring the greatest possible institutional support for interdisciplinary research, curricula, programs and creative practice. The a2ru national conference is an opportunity for faculty, deans, administrators, funders, leaders and students who engage in arts-integrative interdisciplinary efforts to convene and share ideas, best practices, research, creative work and networks.

The theme for the 2014 conference is Edge Effects, which serves as an apt analogy for the great wealth of arts-integrative interdisciplinary research, curricula and creative practices in which a2ru partners engage. At these edges scholars and creators from the arts and other disciplines form unique relationships, make creative and scholarly adaptations and, in many cases, create new fields, knowledge and modes of creative expression. The “edge effect” refers to the changes in population and diversity of species where habitats meet, compete and overlap. In those boundary spaces, or edges, ecologists often find greater numbers of species from both habitats as well as greater biodiversity than found in either. The edge is where we find plants and animals from each habitat that form unique relationships, make adaptations and contribute to the emergence of new species.

Expected Outcomes
The 2014 a2ru national conference will establish:
1) Multiple forums for open and nuanced conversations about the challenges faced by peers who engage in arts-integrative interdisciplinary work. This includes separate conversations for those at the administrative level, the faculty level, and those focused on research, curricula and students.

2) Strategic roundtables based on particular fields or arts-integrative interdisciplinary manifestations (e.g. data visualization, computer/music, additive manufacturing/sculpture, and others).

3) Presentation space for research and curricula in the epistemological “third space” between and within the arts and sciences/technological fields.

4) Opportunities for attendees to share best practices, tools, research, creative work and networks, and to learn from both established and emerging scholars and practitioners.

IMPORTANT DATES
Proposals Due Tuesday, April 8, 2014
Registration Begins Tuesday, June 3, 2014
Notification of Selection Friday, May 9, 2014
General Guidelines

- Proposals from faculty, administrators, staff and students will be considered, but those from a2ru partner universities (click here for a list of partners) or those invited by a2ru leadership will have preference.
- Both individual and group proposals are encouraged.
- Applicants may submit more than one proposal and be considered for more than one type of session.
- Acceptance for a session implies a commitment to attend that session and participate in person.
- All presenters are required to register for the conference.
- Proposals will be reviewed by pertinent a2ru committees and staff.

Proposal Guidelines

Faculty, administrators, staff and students are invited to submit a 500-word presentation proposal for a 1) panel, 2) breakout session, 3) creative submission, or a 4) poster. Proposals should be anchored in arts-integrative interdisciplinary work, and research-based proposals are especially desired.

PROPOSAL OPTION #1
Panel Presentation

a2ru plans to schedule 10-15 panels during the course of the conference, and each panel will be comprised of 4-5 speakers and a discussant. Panel speakers may volunteer to serve as their panel’s discussant. Discussants will be tasked with giving an additional 10 minute “wrap up” analysis of the main ideas and questions raised by the work of the other panel presenters. Discussants are also expected to moderate a 20 minute Q&A session at the end of the scheduled panel. Proposals may include suggestions for other panel members, but a2ru reserves the right to determine panel participation. Individual presentations should be fifteen minutes long, and presentation proposals should fit into at least one of the following:

Research:
Share ongoing or completed research in which arts practices are both integrated and integral.

Curricular:
Discuss best practices, pedagogy, and other topics related to curriculum development, execution and assessment.

Co-Curricular:
Discuss student-centered activities and best practices supported by the university that complement but are not part of the regular curriculum.

Community Connections:
Share research and programmatic best practices in the arts relating to community engagement.

PROPOSAL OPTION #2
Breakout Session

a2ru plans to schedule 8-12 breakout sessions during the course of the conference; both individual and group proposals will be considered. a2ru encourages a variety of formats, including but not limited to: roundtable discussions; participative workshops; hands-on or technological demonstrations; and best practices presentations. Breakout sessions will be scheduled for 45 minutes. The following topics are strong suggestions for guiding breakout session proposals, but additional topics related to arts-integrative interdisciplinary work are encouraged and will be considered:

- Tools and Strategies for Arts-Integrative Collaboration and Practice
- Assessing Impact of Research/Output Recognition
- Assessing Curricular and Programmatic Success
- Funding Interdisciplinary Research, Projects and Programs
- Issues in Interdisciplinary Collaborative Teaching
- Recruitment, Tenure Practices and the Future of “Cluster Hires”
- Teaching “Creativity”/Critique and Feedback Mechanisms in the Classroom/Student Concerns
- Models & Issues Concerning Arts + Humanities/ Social Sciences, or Arts + Science/Engineering, etc.
PROPOSAL OPTION #4  
**Poster Session**  
a2ru invites individual and group poster proposals that reflect arts-integrative interdisciplinary research, work and/or collaboration. Presenters will stand with their posters to answer questions and discuss their courses or findings for a two-hour period, and posters will be available for display for at least one full day during the conference. Each presenter will be assigned to a numbered display panel.

Posters should be no larger than 32” tall and 40” wide, and should include:

- Title and authors (font should be at least 1” high)
- Abstract (no more than 300 words)
- Introduction
- Methods
- Conclusion/Results
- Visual Data/Tables/Figures
- Contact Information

Participants are encouraged to bring at least 50 copies of their papers. More information will be provided about the poster session once proposals have been submitted and accepted.

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR ALL PROPOSALS**

Proposals Due  
**Tuesday, April 8, 2014**  
deadline extended

Registration Begins  
**Tuesday, June 3, 2014**

Notification of Selection  
**Friday, May 9, 2014**

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**Required Proposal Submission Materials**

1) Conference Proposal Cover Sheet
2) Presentation/Project Proposal (500 word max; creative submissions must include space/time/equipment/AV requirements)
3) CV
4) For creative submissions, provide work samples in the format that best suits the project. Up to five .jpg images (300 dpi) for art works and installations; video or audio excerpts no longer than 5 minutes (links preferred); and full transcripts of readings and/or performances. Video, audio and installation work samples are not required to be completed works or professionally produced, but must represent the work that is being considered for inclusion at the conference.

Please email all submission materials to a2ru-events@umich.edu no later than **Tuesday, April 8, 2014**. Submissions may also be mailed to Lauren Fretz at: University of Michigan, Duderstadt Center Suite 1400, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2094.
CONFERENCE PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

Note: Though a2ru requires only one (1) full proposal for group submissions, each member of the group must submit a conference proposal cover sheet for communication purposes.

Name: ______________________________________________________________________________

University: ___________________________________________________________________________

Title: _______________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: _______________________________________________________________________

Email Address(es): _____________________________________________________________________

Preferred Phone Number(s): ____________________________________________________________

Presentation / Project Title: ___________________________________________________________________

Co-Presenter Names: _____________________________________________________________________

Co-Presenter Emails: _____________________________________________________________________

□ PANEL  □ BREAKOUT SESSION
□ Research  □ CREATIVE SUBMISSION
□ Curricular  □ POSTER SESSION
□ Co-Curricular
□ Community Collaborations

If you are interested in being considered for another type of presentation format other than your selection above, please indicate your choice(s):

________________________________________________________________________________________

If applicable, are you interested in serving as a panel session discussant?  □ Yes

For creative submissions, please list the accompanying file names or url links:

Send this form along with your proposal, CV and other supporting materials to a2ru-events@umich.edu no later than Tuesday, April 8 2014. Submissions may also be mailed to Lauren Fretz at: University of Michigan, Duderstadt Center Suite 1400, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2094.