Investing in the Humanities at Yale
Reimagining 320 York Street
Yale University stands as a global leader in the humanities, renowned for its teaching, research, and collections. The university attracts the most eminent faculty members, enrolls talented undergraduates and graduate students, and engages the world in thinking about culture, language, art, and history.

Building on this tradition of excellence, the university has committed to a major initiative to transform the Hall of Graduate Studies at 320 York Street into a central home for academic departments and programs in the humanities.

This project is a milestone for Yale, for the first time gathering a majority of its humanities departments and programs under one roof. The renewed building will expand the resources available to each department, while increasing collaboration among faculty and students across disciplinary boundaries.

Donor support is vital to the success of this project. Yale has received an anonymous lead gift of $50 million to launch the planned renovation, and a further contribution of $25 million from Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin ’78 has named the building’s central tower for David Swensen, Yale’s chief investment officer.

This booklet presents numerous naming opportunities for donors throughout this iconic Yale structure. We invite your support of this important effort.
Project Goals
At 320 York Street, the Hall of Graduate Studies sits at the intersection of York and Wall streets, across from both Sterling Memorial Library and the Sterling Law Building. Designed in the collegiate gothic style by James Gamble Rogers B.A., the landmark facility was built in 1932 to house the Graduate School, with classrooms, faculty offices, and residential apartments for graduate students. It has served for over eighty years as a space for teaching and discovery spanning the humanities, social sciences, and science. Now, with the Graduate School offices and student apartments relocating to other campus facilities, the building will be dedicated to the humanities.

The comprehensive renovation and expansion of 320 York Street will enable Yale to co-locate humanities departments and programs previously dispersed across the campus. Planners have developed the project to support core goals:

- Reconfigure the building to house shared resources in the humanities and serve as a destination for students, scholars, and the public. Plans include a new lecture hall and a state-of-the-art film-screening room.
- House the Whitney Humanities Center, currently located at Church and Wall Streets, in premium space on the ground floor, where it can serve as a driver for interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary work.
- Upgrade classroom, meeting, and working spaces distributed throughout the building to serve needs particular to scholarship in the humanities.
- Support collaborative approaches to teaching, mentoring, and research, including ample meeting rooms and informal social spaces.
- Welcome undergraduates and connect first-year students with the humanities. Immediate proximity to the Center for Teaching and Learning, located in the York Street wing of Sterling Memorial Library, advances this goal.
- Support graduate students with new opportunities for collaboration, research, and teaching.

Yale has retained Ann Beha Architects to design a comprehensive renovation of this iconic facility, with construction slated to begin in summer 2018. The reimagined building will reopen in spring 2020.
A comparison of campus maps before and after the renovation, showing the co-location of humanities departments and programs.
Departments/Programs to Be Located at 320 York Street

Academic Departments and Programs

American Studies Program
Department of Comparative Literature
Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures
Film & Media Studies Program
Department of French
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
Department of History
Program in the History of Science and Medicine
Humanities Program
Department of Italian Language & Literature
Judaic Studies Program
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Department of Religious Studies
Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures
Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Humanities Initiatives and Centers

Archaia: Yale Program for the Study of Ancient and Premodern Cultures and Societies
Franke Program in Science and Humanities
Public Humanities Program
Whitney Humanities Center
Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism
Renderings*

* Architect’s renderings as of December 2017
Current exterior views, clockwise from left: Swensen Tower, loggia, and large courtyard
A view from the loggia shows a new central staircase leading to program space on the concourse and new lower level. At left, the glassed-in archway looks into the large courtyard. The iconic James Gamble Rogers gates remain a focal point on the walls of the space.
In Swensen Tower, the first-floor lobby serves as the new “front door” for the Whitney Humanities Center.

A view of a typical faculty office
In the former dining hall, new walls and glass partitions delineate space for a grand classroom.
A new lower level excavated beneath the main courtyard houses a major lecture hall and a state-of-the-art film screening room. Skylights bring natural light into the spacious lower-level lobby.
With seating for up to 280 people, the lower-level lecture hall hosts classes, lectures, and public events.

One floor below ground, the concourse level offers a bright and friendly home for Directed Studies and other humanities departments and programs. A cluster of seminar rooms draws students into the space throughout the day.
Giving Opportunities
Large Courtyard
$20,000,000                           1 opportunity
Gated courtyards are an important part of Yale’s architectural tradition. 320 York Street features a large central courtyard, enclosed by a loggia and academic spaces at the base of Swensen Tower. This landscaped area includes seating and gathering spaces for outdoor study, conversation, and events.

Small Courtyard
$10,000,000                           1 opportunity
The small courtyard at 320 York Street can be accessed from the loggia and the Whitney Humanities Center. This intimate outdoor space provides a pleasant setting for studying and conversing.

Lecture Hall
$5,000,000                           1 opportunity
The renovation of 320 York Street includes a sizeable expansion, accomplished by excavating several levels below the main courtyard. Occupying much of this new space, the lecture hall is a destination for members of the Yale community and the public. The hall features state-of-the-art audio-visual technology and accommodates up to 280 people for classes, lectures, and public events.

Common Room
$2,000,000                           1 opportunity
The spectacular common room at 320 York Street is a place for students from all disciplines in the humanities to relax, study, gather, and exchange ideas. Conveniently located near the classrooms and faculty offices, the room includes a coffee bar and provides ample seating and work space. The common room features rich architectural details, including the painted plaster ceiling, carved stonework, wood paneling, and etched glass windows.
Fellows’ Hall
$1,000,000 1 opportunity
Part of Whitney Humanities Center, the fellows’ hall hosts the weekly lunches and special events at the heart of the Whitney’s life in its new 320 York Street home. With seating for fifty-two people, the grand space is part of a former dining hall and features high, vaulted ceilings, stone pillars and leaded-glass windows. The hall is supported by an attached kitchen and serving area.

Grand Seminar Room
$1,000,000 1 opportunity
The grand seminar room at 320 York Street is an inspiring and frequently used space for faculty, staff, and student meetings, with conference-style seating for approximately forty people. Architectural details include original stonework, plaster, wood wainscots, coffered ceilings, and leaded-glass windows. Located on the second floor, the room offers views of both the small and large courtyards.

History of Science and Medicine Suite
$1,000,000 1 opportunity
The History of Science and Medicine Suite at 320 York Street is home to an interdisciplinary program bridging the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Yale School of Medicine. The History of Science and Medicine program focuses on how different forms of knowledge and technology have been created in various times, places, and cultures, and how they have shaped the modern world. The program runs a thriving undergraduate major.

Lobby
$1,000,000 1 opportunity
A spacious and welcoming lobby on the lower level of 320 York Street serves both the lecture hall and the film screening room. With lightwells reaching to the main courtyard, this high-profile space offers a comfortable gathering area for attendees before and after lectures and events.

Collaboration Space
$750,000 1 opportunity
Dedicated collaboration space occupies the top level of 320 York Street’s iconic Swensen Tower. Fourteen stories above street level, this gathering space boasts 360-degree views of campus and New Haven, framed by stonework, plaster, wood wainscots, and leaded-glass windows. The space includes a small kitchen for catering support.
Film Screening Room

$750,000  1 opportunity

The renovation of 320 York Street includes a sizeable expansion, accomplished by excavating several levels below the main courtyard. On the new lower level, the film screening room provides an optimal environment to host screenings offered by the Film and Media Studies Program, the Whitney Humanities Center, and other humanities departments and programs. The state-of-the-art space offers seating for approximately ninety people.

Grand Meeting Room, Whitney Humanities Center

$750,000  1 opportunity

With seating for seventy people, a spacious meeting room accommodates lectures and large gatherings hosted by the Whitney Humanities Center in its new home at 320 York Street. A high-ceilinged space once used for a kitchen and offices, this newly configured room emulates many of the building’s original architectural details while incorporating up-to-date technology alongside historic glass-fronted book cases recovered from elsewhere in the building.

Grand Classroom

$500,000–$750,000  4 opportunities

The renovation of 320 York Street provides four grand classrooms, defined both by their scale and by their distinctive architecture. These classrooms serve all humanities departments and programs. On the first floor, room 107 is a jewel-box classroom with seminar-style seating for sixteen. The room features original stained-glass windows and wood wainscots.

Also on the first floor, the former dining room is divided into three spaces, including two grand classrooms. Each seats twenty-six students in a lecture or seminar configuration. The innovative design retains the original architectural details such as stone pillars, vaulted ceilings, and gothic windows. The new walls separating the classrooms are finished with wood panels to a height of eight feet; above that, glass panels provide unobstructed views of the vaulted ceilings, an arrangement that offers a feeling of open space and light while controlling sound.

Another grand classroom and meeting space is situated at the top of the four-story York Street tower. With views of the courtyard and campus, the classroom features refurbished woodwork and stonework, along with technology for twenty-first-century teaching and learning. This space offers seminar-style seating for up to twenty-four, with attached food preparation space for catered conferences and meetings.
First-Year Common Room
$500,000 1 opportunity
Just beyond the main entrance to 320 York Street, the first-year common room is a prominent space that welcomes undergraduates into the community of humanities scholars at Yale. Strategically located, the handsome room provides first-years with gathering space immediately adjacent to classrooms, faculty offices, and the Directed Studies program’s offices; it is also conveniently across the street from the York Street entrance of the Center for Teaching and Learning, located in Sterling Memorial Library.

Open Plan Workspace
$500,000 8 opportunities
At 320 York Street, each open plan workspace occupies a full floor of the iconic Swensen Tower; there are eight workspaces in total, accessible by stair or elevator. Each workspace incorporates work areas for graduate students, a kitchenette, and a small meeting room. The design retains the historic stonework, plaster, and wood wainscots and offers 360-degree views of campus and New Haven. Graduate students across all disciplines of the humanities write, collaborate, and exchange ideas in these beautiful spaces.

Historic Meeting Room
$400,000 2 opportunities
Historic meeting rooms on the third and fifth floors at 320 York Street offer ample space for faculty, staff, and student meetings, with conference-table seating for up to sixteen plus soft seating. Located in Swensen Tower, these corner rooms feature excellent views into the large courtyard. Architectural details include wood wainscots, plaster walls, stonework, and leaded-glass windows.

Concourse Lounge
$250,000–$750,000 3 opportunities
Three lounge areas on the concourse level of 320 York Street offer seating and small gathering areas close to classrooms, faculty offices, and meeting rooms. Convenient to vending areas, the lounges serve as “touchdown” spaces for students and faculty and foster a lively intellectual and social atmosphere.
Film Screening and Meeting Room
$200,000  1 opportunity
On the concourse level of 320 York Street, the film screening and meeting room is shared by the Film and Media Studies Program, the Humanities Program, and the Department of East Asian Languages and Literature. The room is equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual technology for small-scale film screenings and for teachers preparing to teach with film. The room serves as a meeting space for up to fourteen people.

Historic Classroom
$200,000  15 opportunities
Distributed across four floors of 320 York Street, historic classrooms are shared by all humanities departments, increasing opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration. A variety of seating configurations can accommodate seminars, discussions, and lectures. The design of these classrooms incorporates technology for state-of-the-art teaching and learning, while also retaining aspects of the building’s historic architecture, such as stonework, wood paneling, and leaded-glass windows.

Concourse Classroom
$150,000  8 opportunities
Classrooms on the concourse level of 320 York Street accommodate small seminars, seating up to eighteen students. With tables and chairs that can be easily moved, each room can be configured to optimize discussion and conversation. Close to the Directed Studies lounge, these rooms are heavily used by the Directed Studies Program and are also available to other humanities departments and programs.

Directed Studies Lounge
$150,000  1 opportunity
The Directed Studies Lounge at 320 York Street is a casual gathering space for students and faculty members associated with Directed Studies, a signature humanities program for first-year students. Located on the concourse level, the Directed Studies Lounge is adjacent to a suite of classrooms used by the program. It serves as a welcoming and accessible area for group study, relaxation, and conversation about books and ideas.
Historic Classroom (Small)
$150,000  1 opportunity
Located on the third floor of 320 York Street, this small classroom is configured to accommodate eight students in a seminar or small group discussion. The design of this room, which overlooks the large courtyard, retains aspects of the building's historic architecture, such as plaster, a wood wainscot, and leaded-glass windows, while also providing a state-of-the-art teaching and learning environment.

Lounge
$150,000  6 opportunities
The lounge is a key space in the design of 320 York Street as a central home for the humanities. Providing ample space for formal and informal meetings within and among departments, the lounge is the place where faculty members, post-doctoral fellows, graduate students, and undergraduates can encounter one another outside of class on a regular basis. Lounges are distributed across five floors of the renovated building, ensuring easy access for all departments and programs. A typical lounge includes soft seating and a coffee station and showcases materials such as books and artwork particular to the departments nearby.

Meeting Room
$150,000  12 opportunities
A central goal of the 320 York Street renovation is to create new opportunities for collegiality and collaboration among and within humanities departments and programs. To facilitate these interactions, meeting rooms are distributed across five floors of the building to accommodate frequent gatherings of faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and undergraduates. Configured with conference tables, the meeting rooms vary in size, with seating for small groups from eight to sixteen people.

Video Conference Room
$150,000  1 opportunity
The compact video conference room at 320 York Street is fully equipped with the latest technology to promote small-scale, frequent collaboration with scholars in other locations on campus and around the globe.

Renderings by Ann Beha Architects
To Learn More
There are many ways to support the humanities and the renovation of 320 York Street. For more information, please contact your gift officer or:

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