The Humanities Quadrangle

Investing in the Humanities at Yale
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.

Expanding on this tradition of excellence, the university has committed to a major initiative to transform an iconic Yale building, known for decades as the Hall of Graduate Studies, into a central home for academic departments and programs in the humanities. The enlarged and renovated facility has been renamed as the Humanities Quadrangle.

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 Humanities Quadrangle expands 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 received an anonymous lead gift of $50 million to launch the renovation, and a further contribution of $25 million from Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin ’78 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 Humanities Quadrangle 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 1889 B.A., the landmark facility was built in 1932 as a memorial to John W. Sterling B.A. 1864, providing 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 is dedicated to the humanities.

The comprehensive renovation and expansion of the building 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. The building features 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.

Ann Beha Architects has designed a comprehensive renovation of this iconic facility.
A comparison of campus maps before and after the renovation, showing the co-location of humanities departments and programs.
Departments/Programs to Be Located in the Humanities Quadrangle

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*
Pre-renovation 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.
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. The Humanities Quadrangle 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 the Humanities Quadrangle 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 Humanities Quadrangle project 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 large classes, lectures, and public events.

Common Room
$2,000,000 1 opportunity
The spectacular common room in the Humanities Quadrangle 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 1 funded
Part of Whitney Humanities Center, the fellows’ hall hosts the weekly lunches and special events at the heart of the Whitney’s life within the Humanities Quadrangle. 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  1 funded
The grand seminar room at the Humanities Quadrangle 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 the Humanities Quadrangle 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 the Humanities Quadrangle 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.

Special Initiatives Space
$1,000,000  1 opportunity
A dedicated space on the sixth floor of the Humanities Quadrangle will allow faculty and students to come together around special initiatives and cutting-edge research and teaching endeavors. The suite of twelve rooms will include offices, meeting space, and lounge areas to facilitate close and creative collaboration. This carefully configured program space is intended to support humanities priorities.

The special initiatives space displays with particular charm the historic architectural features of the building.
Collaboration Space
$750,000                                   1 opportunity
Dedicated collaboration space occupies the top level of the iconic Swensen Tower, which rises above the Humanities Quadrangle. 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.

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 the Humanities Quadrangle. 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 Humanities Quadrangle features 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.
Undergraduate Common Room
$500,000                                  1 opportunity
Just beyond the main entrance to the Humanities Quadrangle, the undergraduate common room is a prominent space that welcomes Yale College students into the community of humanities scholars at Yale. Strategically located, the handsome room provides undergraduates with gathering space immediately adjacent to classrooms, faculty offices, and offices of the Directed Studies program; it is also conveniently across the street from the York Street entrance of the Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning, located in Sterling Memorial Library.

Open Plan Workspace
$500,000                                  8 opportunities
At the Humanities Quadrangle, 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 of the Humanities Quadrangle 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 the Humanities Quadrangle 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 the Humanities Quadrangle, 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 the Humanities Quadrangle, 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 the Humanities Quadrangle 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  1 funded
The Directed Studies Lounge at the Humanities Quadrangle 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                                1 funded
Located on the third floor of the Humanities Quadrangle, this small classroom is configured to accommodate eight students in a seminar or small group discussion. The design of this room, 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. The historic classroom overlooks a large courtyard.

Lounge
$150,000                                  5 opportunities
The lounge is a key space in the design of the Humanities Quadrangle 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 Humanities Quadrangle 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 the Humanities Quadrangle 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 their new home in the Humanities Quadrangle. For more information, please contact your gift officer or:

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For a staff directory, visit giving.yale.edu/key-contacts