Department of the History of Art & Architecture
Faculty Recommendations for Expanding the Use Language of the Ross Endowment

Background summary

The Department of the History of Art and Architecture (HA&A) is home to and steward of the Marion Dean Ross fund. Established in 1991, the Ross fund is an exceptionally generous endowment that is not presently operating at its full capacity and has accumulated a large unused spendable balance (currently in excess of $300,000). This fund has been tagged by the UO foundation, which inspired the Dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts to invite us to envision ways that the fund language could be opened up to offer additional supplemental support for HA&A.

Fund summary and current uses:
As documented in the “Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Governing the Marion Dean Ross Bequest” written by Professor Jeff Hurwit (who was Department Head when the endowment was implemented), the Ross endowment has been used by faculty in HA&A to purchase books and images relevant to the teaching and research of architectural history (broadly defined). This fund is intended to support purchases supplemental to the normal library budget for architectural history. [The specific use language provided by the Foundation is as follows: “The purpose of the Fund shall be to provide the means of purchasing photographs and books on the history of architecture (or use by the Department of Art History at the University of Oregon. It is my intent that these funds be supplemental to purchases made from the regular budget and not in lieu thereof.”] The Ross fund MOU stipulates that the faculty must vote to approve all purchases in excess of $5,000. It further stipulates that all orders must be approved by the Department Head and Ross Chair.

Proposed uses and rationale:
We recognize that the Ross endowment is an exceptionally valuable resource for anyone, much less a West coast public institution. Our recommendation recognizes the transformative changes to the discipline since the fund’s establishment in 1991: 1. Unanticipated opportunities for scholarly communication, teaching, and image sharing in the internet era. 2. Recognition that our stewardship of the valuable Ross collection would be greatly enhanced by sustained curation and management of the collection. 3. Changing national expectations that grad students in the humanities at private and public institutions need to be fully funded at competitive rates for a PhD program to thrive. While the initial fund use language was not directed toward curating the collection or to graduate student support, we believe that active engagement with and management of the Ross collection, as well as support of teaching and student research in architectural history, is in the spirit of Ross’s mission as a scholar and pedagogue. With this in mind, we suggest opening up the use language of the fund to support graduate students in addition to the current mission of purchasing books and photographs. More specifically, we recommend the creation of graduate student fellowships named in Ross’s memory that will be directly linked to active engagement with the Ross collection itself.

“Section V” of the endowment MOU states procedures for amendments to the document, should they be deemed necessary by a majority (60%) of the faculty. [“Amendments in keeping with the spirit of the Ross Bequest may be made with the approval of no less than 60% of the voting faculty of the Department of Art History.”] Two potential ideas for how to allocate resources between fellowships and materials are attached (see appendix). They represent a range of possible allocations of funds earmarked for fellowships and materials. We recognize that ours is a recommendation ultimately subject to the approval of the Dean, Foundation, Attorney General, and other entities. We believe that opening up the uses will
have a transformative, "game changing" impact for the Department, its faculty, its students, and for the citizens of Oregon in the following ways: ensuring that the mission and resources of the Ross collection reach a broader audience and make a more meaningful contribution to the University and to the citizens of Oregon; increasing competitiveness of our graduate program in architectural history (the fellowships named in Ross's honor will attract high-caliber PhD students nationally and internationally); reinforcing and strengthening the Department's position as a leader in the field of architectural history and facilitating faculty recruitment and retention in those areas.
Potential Funding Allocation Model A

Create a “Marion D. Ross Fellowship” fully-funded five-year PhD fellowship to be awarded annually by HA&A:

- $20,000 annual stipend. (Graduate tuition, fees, etc for the Ross Fellowship will be paid by AAA/UO. Moreover, the Department’s recommendation to create this fellowship is intended to function as “seed money”: the Ross fellowship will be matched (or better) by AAA in the form of one or more additional fully funded 5-year PhD fellowships awarded annually.)
- the first Ross fellowship will be awarded in Fall 2018 following an international call for applications; ads to be placed with the Society for Architectural Historians, College Art Association, and other relevant forums to be determined. Note that after five successive award cycles (FY 2023), the Ross Fellowship would support a total of 5 Ross Fellows. (see chart below)
- preference for PhD students studying architectural history (broadly conceived) of any period or place
- fellowship terms will require some form of active engagement with the Ross collection itself. Projects may include: curating items in the collection; organizing a conference or exhibition related to the collection or to other themes pertinent to Ross’s scholarly interests; conducting research that substantively engages materials from the collection; etc.
- Objectives: to ensure that the mission and resources of the Ross collection will reach a broader audience and make a more meaningful contribution to the University and to the citizens of Oregon; to honor Ross’s memory with named fellowship that will attract high-caliber PhD students nationally and internationally; to support graduate students and broader teaching and research missions in HA&A, especially in architectural history; to attract increased investment in HA&A

Earmarked discretionary funds reserved for books, photographs, and other materials pertinent to teaching and research in architectural history:

- $20,000 annual budget (effective immediately; special purchases in excess of this amount may be approved by Ross chair and Dept. Head)
- biannual review of potential purchases in fall and spring terms (exceptions may be approved by Ross chair and Dept. Head)
- Objectives: to maintain continuity with the initial use language of Ross endowment in reserving funds for books, photographs, and other materials pertinent to teaching and research in architectural history as supplemental to normal HA&A or library budgets; to regularize and streamline purchase process; to ensure a consistent amount of money is reserved and made available each year for faculty purchases

Other considerations:

- $20,000 to be set aside in AY 2017-18 for faculty purchases of books, photographs, and other materials pertinent to teaching and research in architectural history (effective immediately)
- remaining endowment funds to be reinvested into the endowment to generate increased income in longer-term (see chart below; note that relatively restrained spending proposed in initial years leads to dramatic increases in the fund’s income for future years due to reinvestment in the capital)
- we recognize that the Ross fund is an exceptionally valuable resource rare for anyone, much less a West coast public institution; we are confident that opening up the use language of the fund
will have a transformative, meaningful long-term impact on the department and its students, making us recognized leaders in the field of architectural history in particular.

- the proposed changes will be subject to renewal or revision after a ten-year period of awarding five-year fellowships (2018-2028); (not that should we decide to cease the five-year fellowships, the final funding obligation for the five-year fellowships awarded up to 2028 would be 2033); should normative UO stipend packages exceed $20,000/year in the future, we also will consider revisions to account for this.

| Potential Funding Allocation Model A (supplemental data) |

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<tr>
<th>Beginning Balance</th>
<th>FY-18</th>
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<th>FY-21</th>
<th>FY-22</th>
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<td>FY 26</td>
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KM. KE 2/27/17
Potential Funding Allocation Model B

Ross Endowment Proposal
Draft prepared by James Harper

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This counterproposal is similar in many ways to the Mondloch/Eggener proposal, but differs from it in balance of funds apportioned to Acquisitions versus Program. The original dollar amount of the Ross Bequest (about 40.3% of current asset) is reserved for the former, and the balance (about 59.7%) for the latter. This proposal espouses most of the same values as the Mondloch/Eggener proposal, but adds to it the value of honoring donor intent.

BACKGROUND

The Dean’s Office has asked our department to consider creative uses of our largest fund, the Marion Dean Ross Endowment, and to think about how that money might be used to fund the expansion of our department’s Ph.D. program.

We are interested in cooperating and exploring, but in a manner that is ethical and consistent with Marion Ross’s own clearly stated intention that his bequest be used for the acquisition of materials that assist the study of architectural history.

The acquisitions of the Ross Endowment have enriched our program in many ways. Currently they are at the heart of a museum-based course titled “Exhibiting Baroque Architecture,” a course that will result in the exhibition of Ross materials at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. Faculty interest in the fund is active and ongoing; there are requests for purchases that have been put on hold while departmental discussion is underway. While we can do more to ensure that the benefits of the Ross Endowment reach all our faculty, and that all faculty (especially the half of our faculty members who are pre-tenure) feel encouraged to suggest materials for purchase, it is not fair to consider this an “unspendable” fund.

We recognize that when Marion Ross wrote “it is my intent that these funds be supplemental to purchases made from the regular budget and not in lieu thereof,” he was drawing a firm line against using his money to do the things that a university should be doing anyway, with other funds.

We recognize that Marion Ross’s will is written with such specificity that one is open to legal challenge from Ross’ heirs, executors or from dissenting faculty if one departs too much from his stated intentions. We also recognize that Ross, by listing Pennsylvania State University as a contingent beneficiary in his will, left open the possibility of a challenge from that quarter should we propose a use too divergent from the donor’s intentions. We are aware that charges of “We are thus committed to a careful approach.

SOME KEY NUMBERS
The Marion Dean Ross endowment was established in 1991. After the disbursal of several smaller round-number bequests, the remaining money was $1,112,309. Ross’s will directed that that whole amount go to the Library Endowment Fund.

Through careful stewardship, the Endowment has now grown to $2,756,597.

The full cost of supporting a graduate student at the University of Oregon (2015-16 numbers) ranges from $27,900 (GE I at .3 FTE, in state tuition) to $46,452 (GE III at .49 FTE, out of state tuition).

- Stipend (at 1.0 FTE): $28,420 to $33,897
- Health Insurance: $3012
- Fees: $1668
- Tuition (in/out state): $14,391 to $24,759
- OPE (at 2.5%): $710 - $847

Total Cost of Graduate Education/annum (with stipend from .3 to .49 FTE): $27,900-$46,452
Total Cost of Graduate Education/annum (with flat stipend of $20,000): $37,781-$48,149

ANALYSIS: Neither the Mondloch proposal nor the Harper counterproposal pays for a full graduate fellowship. Both propose partial funding and in each case we are asking for the balance to be funded from other sources.

THE PROPOSAL:

That the Marion Ross Endowment be split into two separate endowments. One could be named the “The Acquisitions Fund of the Marion Dean Ross Endowment” (abbreviated here as the “Acquisitions Fund”) and the other could be named the “The Program Fund of the Marion Dean Ross Endowment” (abbreviated here as the “Program Fund.”) The Acquisitions Fund will hold the same dollar amount as the initial bequest ($1,112,309). The balance of the money (1,645,688) will be assigned to the Program Fund.

The Marion Dean Ross Acquisitions Fund would pay for:
Materials that assist the study and teaching of architectural history — and here we reaffirm our commitment, on an ongoing basis, to examination of what the best and most up-to-date interpretation of “materials” is. As of today these might include:
- Books
- Photographs
- Digital interfaces
- The publication of student-authored catalogues (paper or digital) of Ross materials
- The publication of symposium papers (but not the sponsorship of symposia themselves)
- Material costs of exhibiting the Ross materials
- Other unanticipated materials
- A Materials Grant would be designated to each entering Marion Dean Ross Graduate Fellow to spend on additions of the Ross Collection

The Marion Dean Ross Program Fund would pay for:
Enhancements to the Ph.D. program in architectural history. These might include:
• A Graduate Fellowship or fellowships, bearing Ross’s name and reserved for a student in an area of the history of architecture (here broadly defined to include architecture, interiors, landscape and urbanism.) The Ross Fellow would work with the collection and its dissemination, and collaborate with faculty on developing a program of acquisitions.
• Programming related to the Ross Collection, and other Ross Endowment-related enterprises. These could include symposia and other events.
• Programming in architectural history more broadly

APPORTIONMENT OF FUNDS:

Neither this plan nor the Mondloch/Eggener plan pays the full cost of a graduate student; both require us to supplement with additional funding from sources beyond the Ross Endowment.

PROGRAM FUND:
Income at 4%.................................$65,827/year.
  Graduate Student fellowships: $60,000
  Programs (variable—estimated $5,000)
  Reinvestment (remainder) $827

ACQUISITIONS FUND
Income at 4%.................................$48,000/year.
  Grad Student Materials Grant: $15,000
  Project Support: $7,000
  New Acquisitions (Faculty): $26,000

Notes:
• Unspent money at the end of every year should be re-invested to allow the fund to grow. Non-expenditure should not be regarded as neglect but as investment.
• Faculty would rotate, each taking turns sitting on a three-person Ross Acquisitions Fund Committee to ensure that all faculty members feel an equal invitation to participate.
• The Ross Fellows would work with individual Faculty members to identify purchases.
• Each Ross Fellow would receive a one-time credit of $15,000, to be spent at the time of dissertation topic proposal, on materials that will assist the dissertation research.

Potential Funding Allocation Model B (supplemental data)

B. The Split between the Proposed Ross Materials Fund and the Proposed Ross Program Fund

Institutional Research informs us that the original dollar amount of the Ross Endowment was $1,112,309. This is the equivalent of 40.3% of the 2017 value of the endowment.

The following scheme assigns $1,112,309 to the Ross Acquisitions Fund and 1,654,688 to the Ross Program Fund. It conservatively assumes a flat portfolio value, and a standard 4% draw.
PROJECTIONS FOR THE ROSS PROGRAM FUND

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Note: Each fellowship is partially funded at $12,000 in this scheme. Alternately, we could have the fellowship awarded biannually, and fund it at $24,000. This would be fewer students, but also would result in a less exaggerated ratio of students-to-task.

JGH Feb 28 2017