Applications must be submitted to the OVPR by 5:00 p.m. on the published application deadline. Refer to the SFSA guidelines, available on the OVPR website, for information regarding eligibility, allowable expenses, and other submission details. Applicants must complete each item on this application form. Completed applications are limited to a maximum of 1500 words on 3 pages or less, including any figures, tables, and the budget information. Applications greater than 3 pages will be returned without review. All applications must be signed by the faculty member and the department chair.

Name  

Daniel Macfarlane______________________________Date  September 9, 2016

Department  Institute of the Environment and Sustainability  College  Arts and Science

Email  daniel.macfarlane@wmich.edu   Phone #  269-387-5870

Faculty rank  Assistant Professor

Title of proposed work  The Power of Niagara Falls: Hydro-Electricity, Beauty, and the Manipulation of a Border Waterscape _

Amount requested  $2000

Date and title of any previous SFSA or FRACAA project

1. Provide an abstract/succinct summary of the proposal (50 words or less):

This research project examines the transnational history of hydro power, water diversions, and beautification of Niagara Falls. I look at the ways that the U.S. and Canada have engineered the Niagara Falls landscape/waterscape in the twentieth century in order to divert water for hydroelectric production while simultaneously "beautifying" the Falls.
Application narrative: Items 2 – 6 cannot exceed 1,500 words on 3 pages or less

2. Describe your proposed work (e.g., objectives or goals, activities, timeline, outcomes, products, or other relevant information), including the connection, if one exists, with any previous SFSA or FRACAA project.

The objectives of this research trip is to complete the remaining archival work necessary to produce the book I have been researching and writing on the history of engineering Niagara Falls in the twentieth century in order to develop hydro-electricity while ostensibly retaining the visual appeal of the Falls of the tourism industry. The result is that the actual cataract has been significantly modified and changed, - which includes shrinking the actual waterfall – to disguise the fact that up to 3/4s of the water of the Niagara River is actually diverted around the Falls through tunnels and fed to generations stations. I propose to travel to Niagara Falls, Ontario and Niagara Falls, New York so that I can access the archival materials I have identified in the public libraries in both cities, as well as the local city records, and the records of the Niagara Falls Parks Commission. I also plan to continue my previous efforts to find photographs and blueprints, and take photographs myself, so that I can digitally trace the physical changes to the landscape and waterscape over the course of the twentieth century. I have already written several chapters and this research trip will allow me to complete the book.

3. Describe how the proposed work will make (a) a significant and (b) original contribution to the discipline.

Few people are aware that one of the defining symbols of the North American natural sublime, Niagara Falls, has been heavily modified. This projects shows how and why that occurred, in the process making important arguments about the nature of border environments, the role of transboundary environmental governance and environmental diplomacy, conceptions of environmental nationalism and modernity, and the role of energy production in shaping landscapes.

4. Describe the mechanism for dissemination.

I will publish the results as journal articles and in a book which is under contract to an academic publisher, tentatively titled “The Power of Niagara Falls: Hydroelectricity, Beauty, and the Manipulation of a Border Waterscape.”

5. Describe how the proposed work will enhance your reputation and that of WMU.

Building on my previous books, and associated publications (e.g., journal articles and book chapters) on American-Canadian border waters this work will position me as the leading researcher on manipulated waterscapes in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin. In doing this, this research will help position WMU and the Institute of the Environmental and Sustainability
as one of the prime institutions for the study of water policy and history, particularly in the Great Lakes context.

6. Provide an itemized budget and budget justification. A proposed budget greater than the allowed maximum amount of $2,000 will disqualify the proposal. Such a proposal will not be reviewed. Fully justify why the budgeted expense is necessary for the project.

The bulk of the funds will be used to cover/defray the costs of traveling to Niagara Falls to complete the remaining archival work necessary for my book project on Niagara Falls.

Travel costs and lodging - $1600
- driving costs (760 miles round trip x 0.560)
- 7 nights hotel and meals

Research expenses - $400
- copying and reproductions in print and digital formats of archival and other sources ranging from files to newspapers to maps and blueprints
- fees or costs to gain access to areas of Niagara Falls in order to photograph and digitize

Total - $2000

Faculty member signature: ____________________________

Acknowledgement of Department Chair:

☐ x The department chair acknowledges submission of the SFSA application.

☐ x The department chair acknowledges the proposed expenses are reasonable and necessary.

Chair’s signature: _______________ Date: __9/13/16_____________

For OVPR use only:
Faculty member completed previous reporting requirements:
Yes ___ V ___ No _____

Funding decision: Funded _____ Not funded: ______

Date received: SEP 13 2016

Research and Sponsored Programs