Block 4

Dear Lead PI,

The LTER Network Office (LNO) has funded a research project entitled "Cross-site Analysis and Synthesis of Arts and Humanities Engagement within LTER." The first step in that process is to begin to systematically understand the perceived challenges to and values of the arts and humanities efforts engaged in by over one-half of the LTER network sites. We need your help to accomplish that goal.

Please complete the following survey. Feel free to utilize the collective experience and understanding of your LTER team to understand and report on these efforts at your site. The current survey is straightforward and should only take about 10-15 minutes to complete. We may follow up in the future for further information.

There are minimal risks associated with this study. The security and confidentiality of the information collected from you online cannot be guaranteed. Information collected online can be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete, or contain viruses. It is possible that others could learn that you participated in this study. But the information you provide will be confidential to the extent permitted by law and to the extent permitted by the technology being used.

There are no direct benefits for participating in this study. However, the information we gain will hopefully be beneficial to the LTER network more broadly and may lead to future collaborative research. The knowledge we gain about science, arts, and humanities collaborations in the field might be useful to environmental problem-solving in meaningful ways. Information collected in this research may be shared with collaborators outside of OSU for use in future cross-site projects.

Participation in this study is voluntary. You may feel free to skip any questions that do not apply to you or that you would prefer not to answer.

If you have questions please feel free to contact the study PI, Michael P. Nelson, directly (mpnelson@oregonstate.edu, (541) 737-2244). If you have questions about your rights or welfare as a participant, please contact the Oregon State University Institutional Review Board (IRB) Office (IRB@oregonstate.edu, (541) 737-8008).

Thank you in advance for your time and effort on behalf of this project.

Best,
Michael P. Nelson and Lissy Goralnik

1. Site Name:

    [⬍]

Introduction

What's out there?

We would like to understand the extent to which various LTER sites have engaged in arts and humanities inquiry.

How has your site engaged with arts and humanities efforts?

Not at all	Sporadically	Consistently, our site has an arts and humanities program	Other: please describe
○	○	○	○

What is the nature and extent of the arts and humanities program at your site? How does your program operate and who is included. Please describe.

What kind(s) of arts and humanities work has your site hosted? Please check all that apply.

Arts

☐ Photography

☐ Film

☐ Painting

☐ Poetry

☐ Literary prose (fiction, nonfiction)

☐ Drama

☐ Sculpture

☐ Dance

☐ Music

☐ Other Arts: please describe

Humanities

☐ Philosophy

☐ History

☐ Literature

☐ Religion

☐ Other Humanities: please describe

☐ N/A

Perceptions about this kind of inquiry

We would like to understand perceptions about arts and humanities research at LTER sites.

Arts and humanities inquiry is relevant to and important for LTER sites.

- ○ Strongly Agree
- ○ Agree
- ○ Neutral
- ○ Disagree
- ○ Strongly Disagree

Arts and humanities inquiry is interesting but irrelevant to the science we do at our LTER site.

- ○ Strongly Agree
- ○ Agree
- ○ Neutral
- ○ Disagree
- ○ Strongly Disagree

Arts and humanities inquiry is not interesting or meaningful for LTER sites.

- ○ Strongly Agree
- ○ Agree
- ○ Neutral
- ○ Disagree
- ○ Strongly Disagree

Please drag the bar to rank the relative value of each potential contribution of arts and humanities inquiry.

Arts and humanities research in LTER sites is valuable because it:

	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Markets the science, is promotional											
Stimulates collaboration											
Develops skills of observation and perception											
Contributes to environmental problem-solving											
Fosters outreach, public involvement in the site											
Provides opportunities for education, environmental literacy											
Plays a role on grants											
Is good in and of itself											
Enables interdisciplinary scholarship											
Broadens our understanding of the natural world											
Stimulates empathy											
Enhances our science in important ways											
Inspires creative thinking											
Other: please explain											

We realize that various factors might limit a site's ability to engage arts and humanities efforts.

Please drag the bar to rank the relative impact of each factor on the development or growth of your site's arts and humanities efforts.

	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Time or available labor											
Available expertise											
Funding											
Little interest on-site											
Limited space or on-site resources											
Challenging to find interested artists, humanists											
Lack of alignment with current site themes or research goals											
Scheduling											
Limited local or campus relationships in this area											
Clear vision or goals											
We do not view arts and humanities within our purview as an LTER site											
Other: please explain											

Which of the following best captures the nature of the collaborative relationships between arts/humanities researchers and scientists at your site:

○ None

○ Scholars working individually at the same site

○ Scholars actively doing work together

○ Genuinely synthetic

○ Other: please describe

In your opinion, how does arts and humanities inquiry reflect or complement the goals of Long-term Ecological Research sites?

Please drag the bar to rank the relative value of each potential contribution of arts and humanities inquiry to LTER goals.
Arts and humanities research contributes to or enables:

	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Understanding: To understand a diverse array of ecosystems at multiple spatial and temporal scales											
Synthesis: To create general knowledge through long-term interdisciplinary research, synthesis of information, and development of theory											
Information: To inform the LTER and broader scientific community by creating well-designed and well-documented databases											
Legacies: To create a legacy of well-designed and documented long-term observation, experiments, and archives of samples and specimens for future generations											
Education: To promote training, teaching, and learning about long-term ecological research and the Earth's ecosystems, and to educate a new generation of scientists											
Outreach: To reach out to the broader scientific community, natural resource managers,											

Future Directions

We would like to understand how this work fits into the future development of and plans for LTER sites.

Please describe your site's interest in developing or further developing an arts and humanities program of inquiry:

- ○ Not at all interested
- ○ Somewhat interested
- ○ Neutral
- ○ Interested
- ○ Very interested

Please share any thoughts or ideas about the future development of your site's arts and humanities efforts.

Perhaps you are open to the idea but are not sure how you would like to proceed? Maybe you would like to leave the opportunity open but don't have any plans for concrete growth? Do you have site-specific goals for developing or implementing programs, inviting participants, nurturing relationships, or fostering collaborations? Would a network-wide initiative or program lessen the limitations to current growth and provide necessary structure and vision? We welcome any and all comments.

Who is the arts and humanities contact at your site? If you do not have a current program, who is the most appropriate person at your site to contact about this work?

Please share the name and email address of someone we might contact in the future.