



RUTGERS

UNIVERSITY | NEW BRUNSWICK

Prabhas V. Moghe

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Research and Academic Affairs  
Distinguished Professor

September 21, 2020

Dr. Elizabeth Alexander, President  
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
140 E. 62nd Street  
New York, NY 10065

Dear Dr. Alexander,

In submission to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's *Just Futures* initiative, it is my pleasure to offer my full endorsement of **Dr. Kenneth Sebastian León's** proposed project, *Unlocking Tomorrow: Carceral Ecologies and the Means to Justice*.

Dr. León is Assistant Professor of Latino and Caribbean Studies and faculty affiliate of the Criminal Justice program at Rutgers-New Brunswick. His *Just Futures* project brings together collaborators from public history and the humanistic social sciences with local communities across the U.S. to examine the racial logics of "carceral ecologies," a total saturation of several interlocking regimes of un-freedom and control in everyday life. To undertake this important work of engagement and redress, scholars from the academy will join with community leaders in five states through the Humanities Action Lab at Rutgers, Newark, working together to audit historical harms from carceral systems and support new efforts to create reparative policies and structures.

We respectfully request support of \$4,885,787 over three years to make this visionary work possible.

Dr. León's project powerfully captures the spirit of the *Just Futures* program in its commitment to achieving racial justice by mobilizing the humanities, nurturing multi-disciplinary collaborations and raising the voices of those who historically have not been heard. On behalf of all of us at Rutgers, thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the *Just Futures* call to action. We are grateful for your consideration of Dr. León's proposal.

Sincerely,

Prabhas Moghe

cc: Dianne Harris  
Armando Bengochea