

FUNDING PRIORITIES

AT THE BRODY JEWISH CENTER
2018-2019



OBSERVATIONS AND CONTEXT

As Hillel at the University of Virginia moves forward in thoughtfully engaging and empowering Jewish students at UVA, staff realizes how vital it is to create and modify opportunities to fit current student interests and needs.

Based on student feedback and staff experience, we hope to move forward and build upon models that have proven successful during the past year. A large part of what that looks like for the next year is **focusing on programs that teach concrete skills, create communities, prepare students for life after school, and provide continuous and regular opportunities for students to engage with Jewish culture, people, and values.**

The scope of shifting the Brody Jewish Center's programs in these ways is large, but important. With the funding needs outlined below met, Hillel at UVA can continue to innovate to extend the reach of Hillel - both in engaging more students in volume and deepening their Jewish experiences.

JEWISH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COHORT

\$12,000

Last school year, Hillel and 35 students at UVA had the opportunity to participate in Hillel International's Jewish Learning Fellowship - a national ten-week experiential seminar. And while the program was incredible in the learning opportunities it provided, it also proved a staff theory: that **cohort based learning works for our students.**

For the 2019-2020 school year, Hillel at UVA seeks \$12,000 to introduce an additional cohort learning experience for two semesters of a newly-designed Jewish Leadership Development Cohort. The cohort will allow staff to engage more students at a deeper level, while producing and empowering future leaders of the Jewish community at UVA and beyond.

The seminar will focus distinctly on Jewish leadership development and will consist of sessions about strengths finding and mapping, collaboration and working in group settings, leadership styles, and modern Jewish leaders. The seminar will also have some component of Jewish text study as students look to the Torah for ancient examples and laws of leadership. **By engaging in this rigorous study as a group, students will form connections to each other and the materials that will sustain them after graduation and once they're leaders in their future Jewish communities.**

Hillel at UVA hopes to offer this seminar to a cohort of around 15 students in both the fall and spring semesters.

Program costs include: Training resources and materials, meeting supplies, food, student stipends, and staff time.



PROGRAMMING INTERNSHIP

\$10,000

Another successful model coming out of the last school year is Hillel's Engagement Internship program - where six student interns met uninformed Jewish students at UVA and worked to make them feel comfortable and welcome in Jewish spaces. The interns had bi-weekly staff supervision paired with cohort-style meetings where they discussed challenges and successes, which proved to be a successful model to widen the scope of Hillel's work by engaging more students on Grounds both individually and during intern-designed events.

For the upcoming year, the Brody Jewish Center looks to capitalize on the success of the Engagement Internship program and employ UVA's hallmark of student self governance to hire interns to manage programming and events for the year. **To make this program a reality, Hillel at UVA seeks \$10,000 to introduce a cohort of six Programming Interns to act as extensions of our minimal programming staff - each tasked with uniquely representing a way to be involved in the Jewish community.**

The six Programming Interns will be supervised by programming staff and receive formal programming and leadership training, infused with Jewish learning. This will ensure the success of, and innovation around programming for holidays, tikkun-olam, first-years, Israel, and religious life. This new model will serve as an investment in student leadership and community organizing while aiding the Hillel at UVA vision of making programs as innovative, impactful, and student-driven as possible. **By creating a programming offshoot of our successful internship program, we hope to better channel student wants and needs, ultimately resulting in seeing more students at events and initiatives throughout the year.**

Program costs include: Group meeting materials and food, student programming event supplies, student learning support materials, student intern stipends, staff time.



PROGRAMMING INTERNSHIP

FOURTH YEAR SEMINAR

\$7,500

A meaningful program that Hillel at UVa has been able to offer for the past two years has been fourth year seminar - a special cohort of fourth years that meet every other week to talk about life and professional skills that will help with the post-grad transition. In addition to discussing life after college in general, conversations often center on ways to find and become involved with a Jewish community in a new city, as well as focusing on ways to practice and uphold individual traditions and customs away from home. Alum have shared the shock and hardship of engaging in the social and Jewish aspects of a new city, connecting about this before post-college life can give students the confidence and knowledge to become involved.

In the past, fourth year seminar has teamed up with alumni - both for networking and as part of a panel - to help provide perspective and utilize the lasting connections that alum have with Hillel. Next year, we hope to increase available experiences for fourth year students to interface with alum, as student feedback reflected the value in being able to network and have a familiar face in a new city. **To expand this program, as well as to maintain the current Fourth Year Seminar program, Hillel at UVA seeks a grant of \$7,500.**

Throughout the year, third year students have been talking about what they'll be interested in learning and teaching as part of the upcoming Fourth Year Seminar, and staff believes that in the upcoming year, we'll see over 40 students regularly for this program.

Program costs include: 1-2 off-site experiences, 2 meetings per month, food, sponsoring 1-2 alum discussion panels, and staff time.

