

Syracuse University: National Director of *Imagining America*

Syracuse University seeks a highly accomplished and recognized scholar in the realm of publicly engaged humanities, arts, and design, to lead the national organization *Imagining America* for its next five years, beginning July 2007. *Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life* is a national consortium of more than 75 colleges, universities and arts institutes committed to civic engagement in the arts, humanities, and design. Its mission is to foster the democratic purposes of the humanities, arts, and design through public scholarship, campus-community partnerships, and other forms of publicly-engaged academic work in the cultural disciplines (<http://www.ia.umich.edu>). The organization, begun in 1999 and administered by the University of Michigan since then, will move to its new host campus at Syracuse on 1 July 2007. *Imagining America's* national office will share the historic Tolley Building with the Public and Collaborative Humanities Center, an array of interdisciplinary humanities programs, and our new Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow program.

The Director will be responsible for helping to define the vision and strategies that will guide the development of a significant national initiative in civic engagement. S/he must be an active participant in current national debates and organizational work on the public work of the arts and humanities, as well as pursuing a vigorous scholarly and writing agenda that explores the public dimensions of scholarly work.

The administrative home of *Imagining America* is The College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Provost; the Director will work collaboratively with the Dean and the Provost to

ensure the broadest possible participation of the University in support of the IA agenda. The Director must be a skilled administrator with responsibility for: leadership of the IA staff, working with its national advisory board to establish strategic directions for the organization, management of budgets, planning and implementation of IA's annual meeting, linkages among the member organizations, links between IA and other national organizations on engagement, and the publicly active graduate fellows (PAGE) program. S/he must be also be a skilled organizer of a national consortium, a voice in national work on civic engagement, and an effective collaborator with community practitioners in the humanities, arts, and design.

We recognize that the power and essence of Imagining America is its broad reach across the public humanities, arts, and design. Accordingly, we wish to attract applicants from a broad array of disciplines and backgrounds, and will facilitate a tenured appointment in one or more of Syracuse University's schools and colleges. A successful candidate with sufficient seniority and distinction would also be eligible to be appointed as a *University Professor* joining only six other colleagues in this prestigious campus-wide position. Experience in public and collaborative scholarship is essential, as are excellent leadership and organizational skills and superb communication skills.

Please send letters of nomination or application to: Sharon Bedell, The College of Arts and Sciences, 300 Hall of Languages, Syracuse, New York 13244. Applications should include a curriculum vitae, copies of selected publications, and the names of external references. We will begin review of applications 20 February 2007, and position is open until filled.