

## Humanities Engage: Ph.D. Student Opportunity

### Summer Immersive Fellowships

[Humanities Engage](#) fosters experiential learning and immersive experiences for doctoral students across our arts and humanities programs in support of our mission to deepen and broaden all students' intellectual and professional development, and make Humanistic careers across all employment sectors visible, valued, and viable.

- **Eligibility:** DSAS Humanities Ph.D. students with no university academic appointment in summer 2021 (TA/TF/GSA/GSR/other full summer funding) or external fellowship and who expect to be enrolled in fall 2021. Preference will be given to students in earlier years of their graduate studies and those who have not previously received funding via *Humanities Engage*.
- **Stipend:** \$4,000 for ca. 200 hours of effort
- **Timeline:** Immersives can begin as early as May 3, 2021 and must be completed by August 20, 2021.
- ***Humanities Engage* expectations:** Contribute at least one blog post to the project website, no later than two weeks after the immersive begins; submit a reflective essay (or equivalent, e.g. video) on the experience for the project website by September 1, 2021. Participate in cohort activities. Help co-mentor subsequent cohort.

#### **Please note the following:**

The feasibility of any in-person components will be assessed in accordance with the University's risk posture and COVID-19 standards and guidelines and the host organization's health and safety protocols.

International Ph.D. students will need to consult with OIS and obtain their Immigration Specialist's endorsement prior to accepting a Fellowship.

Students are responsible for reporting taxable stipend payments and for remitting any tax due to their local taxing authority.

Students may submit separate applications to multiple opportunities but may only accept one immersive fellowship. Students may not accept more than one *Humanities Engage* fellowship or grant of any type over the summer.

## **OPPORTUNITY**

### **Monument Lab**

#### **Organization Description**

Monument Lab is a public art and history studio based in Philadelphia. Monument Lab works with artists, students, educators, activists, municipal agencies, and cultural institutions on participatory approaches to public engagement and collective memory. Founded by Paul Farber and Ken Lum in

2012, Monument Lab cultivates and facilitates critical conversations around the past, present, and future of monuments.

The studio and curatorial teams collaborate to make generational change in the ways art and history live in public. Approaches include producing citywide art exhibitions, site-specific commissions, and participatory research initiatives. We aim to inform the processes of public art, as well as the permanent collections of cities, museums, libraries, and open data repositories. Through exhibitions, research programs, editorial platforms, and fellowships, we have connected with hundreds of thousands of people in person and millions online. Monument Lab critically engages our inherited symbols in order to unearth the next generation of monuments that elevate stories of resistance and hope.

### **Immersive Fellowship Description**

The Fellow will work to support one of Monument Lab's various on-going [art and research projects](#) and will be placed based on project need and the Fellow's interest. One potential project is "Staying Power," a collaboration among artists and residents of the Fairhill-Hartranft neighborhood of Philadelphia to create a multi-site exhibition that centers the leadership of community residents as curators, advisors, and makers who will articulate their collective vision for the neighborhood's future. The project will invite residents to engage with artists based both in North Philadelphia and elsewhere whose work explores questions of power, place, and memory in a collaborative process that will result in monumental sculpture, indoor installations, and storefront activations.

Another potential project is "OverTime." Through a free downloadable augmented reality app, OverTime takes users through an enhanced street-view as a way to engage residents and visitors in exploring the public memory of a neighborhood or public space. Through the app, users can access histories of an important street or intersection, explore stories and memories, and visualize new ways to access and contribute to data as living history of that site. Alongside the app, Monument Lab will gather findings and make them accessible through the studio's website.

With these projects, the Fellow will engage in participatory research that intervenes into official platforms for civic knowledge; help create workshops for public art officials that organize memory workers, shape platforms for public discourse, and support critical calls to action; and contribute to podcast, bulletin, and programming events.

### **Responsibilities**

In addition to the above, the Fellow will also conduct their own monument-related research and attend weekly meetings with Monument Lab staff to discuss their progress and familiarize themselves with broader lab operations.

### **Qualifications**

Monument Lab expects that each candidate will bring to the organization a host of skills drawn from their scholarly training, including

- a strong research and writing background
- creativity
- civic engagement
- specific forms of field-based knowledge and expertise

## Application

Applicants should please provide the following materials in this order and in a single .pdf to [michele.krugh@pitt.edu](mailto:michele.krugh@pitt.edu) by March 26, 2021, at 5PM.

A. *Cover Letter (2 pages max) addressing these key points:*

1. Which host organization opportunity are you applying to?
2. How does this project draw on your academic preparation and professional experience to help advance the host organization's goals?
3. How will this opportunity contribute to amplifying your research training and advance your professional goals? Explain why the timing makes sense in light of where you are in your program.

B. *Brief, current CV (2 pages max)*

C. *Brief letter of support from primary Ph.D. advisor. (Note: This letter can also be sent directly from the faculty member to [michele.krugh@pitt.edu](mailto:michele.krugh@pitt.edu).)*

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed via Zoom by representatives of the prospective host organization and of *Humanities Engage*.