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**

Fellows will assist on curatorial research and publication projects for the upcoming exhibition Staying Power, opening May 2021.

Staying Power is a participatory art and history exhibition that explores the legacies, mechanics, and politics that connect or disconnect people from place. Hosted by The Village of Arts and Humanities and Monument Lab, Staying Power is a collaboration between residents of the Fairhill-Hartranft neighborhood of North Central Philadelphia and artists Sadie Barnette, Black Quantum Futurism, Courtney Bowles and Mark Strandquist, Ebony G. Patterson, and Deborah Willis. The project reflects and responds to community continuities through evocative installations, builds the community’s capacity to shape a shared narrative of its own power, and both centers and invests in the leadership of community residents as curators, advisors, and makers.

Driven by the curatorial prompts – What is staying power in this neighborhood? What is staying power in a city that is rapidly changing? – this exhibition picks up on The Village’s anti-displacement and equitable revitalization efforts, as well as Monument Lab’s aims to unearth the next generation of monuments that elevate stories of resistance and hope. Their installations will be presented alongside The Village’s existing public collection of legacy artworks. The resulting works will include outdoor monumental sculpture, indoor installations, storefront activations, and performances along the Germantown Avenue corridor.

**Responsibilities**

- The Fellows will work in conjunction with Monument Lab’s curatorial team to support the research, performance and programming components of the exhibition.
- Fellows will be trained to assist the Monument Lab team and artists in dialogue about curation, event design, community outreach, and research and evaluation.
- Fellows will engage with exhibition visitors by collecting research forms and sharing responses in creative ways throughout the campus of Village, or work off-site on virtual research engagements.
- Fellows will support the process of sharing and archiving research findings in a publication and other means.
- Fellows will also support a series of public programming that will happen weekly throughout the exhibition.
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

Experience or training in one or more of the following fields will be necessary: Africana Studies, Art History, City Planning, Design, History, Historic Preservation, Landscape Architecture, Museum Studies, Public History, Urban Studies, and/or a related field

Application

Applicants should please provide the following materials in this order and in a single .pdf to 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.)

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