

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

Women of Visions, Inc. and the University Art Gallery

Organization Description

Women of Visions was co-founded in 1981 by a diverse group of African American women in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, looking for opportunities that had not been afforded to them in the traditional art world. In 1990, the organization was incorporated under the name Women of Visions, Inc., which achieved non-profit status in 1995. Over subsequent decades, we have sponsored, curated

or been represented by members and former members in hundreds of exhibitions, many of national and international acclaim. In addition to our community outreach, through collaborative programming, and progressive arts opportunities, members have enriched all generations ranging from K-12 to senior adults.

The members of Women of Visions, Inc. work in a variety of artistic mediums, which include: Painting, fiber art, collage, mixed media, printmaking, photography, ceramics, jewelry-making, and three-dimensional works. Several of our members regularly act as teaching artists and are registered with our host organization, the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts School, registered by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Located in the Frick Fine Arts Building at the University of Pittsburgh, the University Art Gallery (UAG) uses its collections, exhibition and public programming to provide a social-engaged cultural think tank for Pitt students, and a space for the wider community to experience innovative new forms of museum engagement. As the key learning space of the History of Art and Architecture's Museum Studies program, the UAG cultivates a new generation of creative innovators for the cultural sector.

Immersive Fellowship Description

In Fall 2021, Women of Visions is collaborating with the University Art Gallery to mark the fortieth anniversary of the organization through an exhibition, publication, programs and rich interpretative media that will celebrate the organization's history, and increase the visibility of the work of its member artists.

The Fellow will work between Women of Visions and the University Art Gallery to steer key outcomes of the project to fruition in Summer 2021. The Fellow will serve as the editor and production coordinator for the anniversary publication, working with artists, content providers and design service providers to bring the volume to completion by early Fall. Over the course of the Spring semester, a practicum class of Museum Studies undergraduates will be developing new research on the history of Women of Visions, engaging with its members in order to develop original writing about their practice and other historical resources. In the summer, the Fellow will work with project stakeholders to finalize this publication, coordinating texts, images and approvals, and overseeing layout, design and editorial revisions. Upon agreement and permitting Fellow interest and expertise, there may also be an opportunity for the Fellow to contribute an essay or other text to the publication.

The second focus for the Fellow will be to work directly with a group of Women of Visions artists and a video production firm to develop a series of video vignettes for use on web and social media outlets. These short clips will showcase artists in their own voice, and profile their studio practice and techniques. This project will draw on undergraduate interviews and research undertaken in the Spring semester, but the Fellow will serve as the producer for these videos, shaping their creative form and storylines.

Deliverables

- Completed print publication celebrating fortieth anniversary of Women of Visions
- Series of video vignettes showcasing artistic practices of selected Women of Visions members for use on social media and, potentially, in the exhibition itself

Responsibilities

- Work with Sylvia Rhor Samaniego, Director, University Art Gallery; Alex Taylor, Assistant Professor and Academic Curator, History of Art and Architecture; and Christine Bethea, President, Women of Visions, Inc. to coordinate and organize all content for the above deliverables
- Liaise with creative suppliers for print publication and video assets to ensure efficient use of their services, organizing schedules and content delivery
- Create new written content to enhance publication and video outcomes, including supplementary writing, late content additions and on-screen content requirements

Qualifications

- A commitment to advancing the cause of gender and racial equity that underpins the project
- An interest in contemporary visual art and/or local community history
- Exceptional written expression and editorial skills, with close attention to detail and advanced proofreading skills
- Experience working with content and software for digital images and video content
- Project management experience coordinating complex projects coordinating content across multiple stakeholder groups

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*.