

History Inspires Fellowship

History Inspires: Artists Interpret The Filson's Collection with a Creative Filter

Purpose

The History Inspires Fellowship (HIF) provides artists and makers an opportunity to explore the Filson's collections as inspiration for a creative project. The HIF program spotlights the Filson's collections and how these items are utilized by creative people in the contemporary art world.

Background

The Filson has a long tradition of documenting the history of art and artists working in the Ohio River Valley. In recent years, the Filson has been building relationships with regional artists, through the artists' donations of materials to our collection and by supporting research for creative projects. The History Inspires Fellowship (HIF) program will build upon those established relationships by promoting the Filson Historical Society as a resource for artistic scholarly research and inspiration, thus strengthening our bond with the creative community. The HIF program will further the Filson's mission to collect, preserve, and share the stories of Kentucky and Ohio Valley history and culture by making history relevant in today's world.

Project Description

The History Inspires Fellowship program will provide innovative people in the contemporary art world access to the Filson's collections. This is not limited to visual artists, but all creative folk; makers, musicians, poets, quilters, dancers, etc. Creatives of all types using any medium for self-expression are invited to submit a project proposal stating what they plan to research using the Filson's collections and how our materials will help them produce a body of work.

Guidelines

Deadline for submission of materials is **October 17, 2024 by 4pm** for projects to start in 2025.

Written materials should not exceed 3 single-spaced pages (including cover sheet, but not attachments)

Submit by emailing materials in PDF format to historyinspires@filsonhistorical.org.

Prior to submitting applications, individuals are *strongly* encouraged to explore the Filson's website, specifically the ["Collections and Research" page](#) and to contact Filson's Collections Department to learn more about which items might enhance their creative project. For assistance in determining relevancy of materials in the collections; please reach out to research@filsonhistorical.org

A committee of reviewers will consider each applicant's materials and awards will be based on their rankings. The committee will select up to 3 fellows per year.

Applications should submit the following materials to be considered for the HIF:

1. Coversheet with the following information (1 page):
 - Name
 - Mailing address
 - Email address
 - Website, Instagram/facebook profile where work can be viewed if applicable.
 - Project title
2. Description of your proposed project should include (no more than 2 pages):
 - Specify what research collections you plan to utilize.
 - Description of projected creative outcome – body of work, performance, publication, etc.

- How the project relates to the Filson's mission (To Collect, Preserve, and Share the Stories of the Ohio River Valley) and the goal of History Inspires Fellowship
 - Timeline of proposed project including time allotted for research.
 - A plan to share project with the public – formal lecture, performance, exhibit outside of the Filson, etc.
3. Include as attachments:
- Five images of examples of relevant creative work
 - CV or resume

Process for History Inspires Fellowship

Application Review

Once applications are received, a review committee will consider each applicant's materials and awards will be based on their rankings. The committee will select up to three projects per year.

Criteria to be consider include:

- Relevancy of Filson's collections to overall creative project
- Capacity of applicant to conduct the work
- Strength of creative portfolio and CV
- Relevancy of proposed project to Filson's mission
- Expected quality of proposed production of work

Meeting

Once the members of the committee have made their selections, the applicants will be notified.

By the end of 2024, a meeting with selected fellows will take place to establish a strategy for the following year.

At the meeting a timeline will be planned, a payment schedule reviewed, and a participation agreement will be signed.

The Timeline should include:

- Hours needed for research
- A midway meeting to discuss conclusion and research guidance instructions
- Conclusion with a Public program

Throughout the project, members of the Filson staff will meet with HIF to suggest direction and other resources that could help with the creative journey as needed.

Agreement

Selected Fellows will sign an agreement that covers timeline, compensation/payment schedule, and willingness to present some form of public program in addition to participating in the Filson's History Inspires Fellowship Biennial exhibit.

Compensation

Up to three applicants may be selected for the program at the discretion of the fellowship committee. For participating in the program, History Inspires Fellows will each earn a stipend of \$1660 to compensate for their time spent doing research at the Filson and presenting their project to Filson audiences. While fellows may use their funds towards materials, the stipend is not intended to cover the cost of materials for the project, merely to be compensation for time spent on research that is conducted at the Filson.

Payments will be dispersed by paper check in installments according to the payment schedule discussed and agreed to at the initial Fellowship meeting. Stipends are conditional upon maintaining good standing in the program and completing the project. The stipend will be subject to taxation and the fellow must submit a W9 to the Filson at the outset of the project.

Final Project and HIF Biennial Exhibit

Each HIF project will conclude with some form of public program to celebrate and share their research work. This can take the form of exhibits outside of the Filson, lectures, performances, publications, or other formats to be determined by individual fellows with support and guidance from the Fellowship program leaders.

In conjunction with the Final Project each Fellow is asked to participate in a Biennial History Inspires Fellowship exhibition at the Filson. The first exhibit will be hosted in 2026 with the goal of featuring several of the artists' creative works alongside collection items that were used as inspiration for their project. Filson staff will be leading the exhibit but will draw on the help of each individual fellow.

Please note any work created during the fellowship process is owned 100% by the maker. The Filson does require rights to document and publicize your project and public event for marketing purposes.