

History Inspires Fellowship

History Inspires: Artists interpret The Filson's collection with a creative filter.

Purpose

The History Inspires Fellowship program will spotlight the Filson's collections and how our items are utilized by today's artists and makers.

Background

The Filson has established several relationships with regional artists, either through the artists' donations of materials to our collection or by artists conducting 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 20, 2023 by 4pm** for projects to start in 2024
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.

Individuals are encouraged to contact Filson's Collections Department prior to submitting applications for assistance in determining relevancy of materials in the collections; please reach out to research@filsonhistorical.org

A committee of internal and external reviewers will consider each applicant's materials and awards will be based on their rankings. The committee will select up to 5 projects per year based on the scope of accepted projects.

Applications should include:

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 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
 - One letter of reference

Process for History Inspires Fellowship

Application Review

Once applications are received, a review committee made of external and internal reviewers will consider each applicant's materials and awards will be based on their rankings. The committee will select up to five projects per year based on the scope of accepted projects and budget.

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
- Letter of reference

Meeting

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

By the end of 2023, 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
- Frequent studio visits 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.

Agreement

Selected Fellows will sign an agreement that covers timeline, compensation/payment schedule, and willingness to present some public program in addition to participating in a Biennial exhibit.

Compensation

For participating in the program, History Inspires Fellows will earn a stipend up to \$5000. The fellowships for the year will total \$5000. Specific awards will vary depending on the scope of each proposal and the number of selected annual fellows.

Payments will be dispersed by paper check in installments according to the payment schedule discussed and agreed to at the initial 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.

Conclusion

Each HIF project will conclude with an event that will be open to the public to celebrate and share their research work. Concluding projects 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.

Any work created during the fellowship is the sole property of the maker. The HIF will grant the Filson rights to document and publicize the project.

In 2026 an exhibit will be planned that will feature several of the artists' work alongside the items utilized from the Filson's collection.