



Chicago Humanities Festival PhD Fellowship Description

Position: Predoctoral Research Fellow, Neighborhood Programming
Type: Part-time (avg. 24 hours/week), fixed-term (through Oct. 2021)
Compensation: \$43,200
Target Start Date: 1 December, 2020
End Date: 31 October, 2021

The Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF), the largest and longest-running urban festival of arts and ideas in the United States, seeks an advanced PhD candidate in the Humanities or Humanistic Social Sciences for a Predoctoral Fellowship as part of its Mellon Foundation-funded pilot Neighborhood Initiative. The Mellon Foundation Officer's Grant will support sustained community engagement in order to identify local priorities and establish collaborative partnerships in a cluster of South Side neighborhoods, leading to co-created pilot programming at the end of the first year. The Fellow will primarily be responsible for providing research and documentation support to aid in planning and tracking grant-funded activities and to contribute to the interpretation and evaluation of the Neighborhood Initiative in its pilot year.

Fellowship Responsibilities:

- Participate in community engagement, pilot programming, and evaluation processes as a member of CHF's Neighborhood Programming team
- Work collaboratively with colleagues, community members, and partners from a variety of backgrounds to establish shared approaches to planning and communication
- Contribute to the creation and execution of a documentation plan, employing methods based in the fellow's own academic background where appropriate
- Provide research support toward identifying potential community partners and resources, and compile relevant neighborhood information as a shared resource
- Help to establish target outcomes and objectives for the Neighborhood Initiative, and contribute to documenting and tracking progress during its pilot year
- Remain in dialogue with and receptive to feedback from community partners and stakeholders throughout the fellowship period
- Where appropriate, participate in other CHF operations, including relevant meetings, as a member of the Programming team

Who should apply?

Advanced PhD candidates from a wide range of humanistic disciplines, experienced in identifying and applying appropriate research methods to an inquiry of any kind, are encouraged to apply. The position offers a unique opportunity to both deploy research skills developed through doctoral training to meet the needs of new circumstances, and to draw on specialized knowledge and distinct areas of experience to help shape a documentation plan. Those seriously considering a public-facing career outside of academia, or with a strong drive to build a public dimension into their scholarship, might find this position of particular interest.

Fellowship Qualifications:

- Experience designing and executing research projects, including experience with methods of collecting, organizing, and analyzing evidence
- Comfortable using digital tools to gather and organize information, and orienting others to navigate that information using those tools
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including a history of addressing audiences from a number of different backgrounds with clarity and respect
- Established ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a team, including a history of success working collaboratively toward a common goal in group settings
- Keen observational skills, with a great deal of flexibility and resourcefulness, and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances
- Capable of capturing and tracking information under the transitory and shifting conditions of live events unfolding in real time
- An interest in arts & culture and/or public engagement, whether or not an explicit aspect of scholarly research, ideally including some experience with and knowledge of Chicago
- Commitment to participating in the work of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility as part of CHF's programming, partnerships, and workplace culture

Notes:

The Fellow must be enrolled and in good standing as a doctoral candidate throughout the duration of the Fellowship. The Fellow is responsible for maintaining health insurance, through their home institution or otherwise, during the Fellowship.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the responsibilities of this position may need to be conducted partially or entirely remotely, in which case access to relevant technology, a reliable internet connection, and a private place to work would be required. If and when CHF staff returns to working in its River North office, the Fellow would generally be expected to commute to the office when scheduled to work. Depending on conditions, occasional travel to and within the neighborhoods where the team is working may also be required.

About the Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF)

For over 30 years, CHF has presented thoughtful programs, performances, and exhibitions to audiences across Chicago, and increasingly beyond. CHF is a non-profit organization that maintains deep relationships with Chicago's cultural, civic, and educational communities. CHF is committed to remaining accessible and affordable, to creating the conditions for broad and diverse participation in our programming throughout the year, and to cultivating conversations that create the conditions for change.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The Festival is committed to providing a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace, where all employees and volunteers, whatever their gender, race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation or identity, education, or disability, feels valued and respected. We are committed to a nondiscriminatory approach and provide equal opportunity for employment and advancement in all of our departments, programs, and policies. We respect and value diverse life experiences and heritages and ensure that all voices are valued and heard.

To Apply

For full consideration, please submit the following by October 16th to neighborhoods_jobs@chicagohumanities.org

- A statement of interest in CHF, neighborhood programming, and this position, detailing relevant skills and experiences, and how they could be applied to the Fellowship
- A resume reflecting relevant training and experience
- Contact information for two references

Questions can be directed to Ira S. Murfin, Program Manager - Neighborhood Partnerships: ira@chicagohumanities.org