



2026 Craft Archive Fellowship - Grant Kit

Four fellowships of \$5,000 will be awarded to support archival research on underrepresented and nondominant craft histories in the United States.

The 2026 Craft Archive Fellowship will foster archival research on underrepresented and nondominant craft histories in the United States, such as feminist, intersectional, queer, Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and other communities and approaches that may not be specifically listed here. The fellowship will support a range of scholars, including independent scholars, artist-scholars, and emerging to established researchers. Center for Craft Archive Fellows will receive a \$5,000 stipend to conduct research in an archive of their choosing. These Fellows may engage in both conventional and innovative approaches to archival research.

The Fellows will have their research published in an article on *Hyperallergic* in September 2027, making their research accessible to national and international audiences. The Fellows will also participate in a virtual program presented by the Center for Craft in September 2027, to include a verbal presentation of their research methods.

The Ayumi Horie Award, the Sara Clugage Award, and the Gallaher Family Award partly support the Center for Craft Archive Fellowship. Additional awards may be named by contacting give@centerforcraft.org.

Grant Goals

- To encourage and support the research and writing of historically underrepresented and nondominant American craft histories
- To expand understanding of where and how archival craft research can be conducted
- To raise awareness of the importance of craft research

About our Program Partner

[Hyperallergic](#) is a leading voice in arts publishing, offering contemporary perspectives that “challenge the art world status quo.” With over 1 million unique visitors per month, their website extends the impact of our Fellows’s research by reaching a broad and diverse arts audience.

This strategic partnership between the Center for Craft and *Hyperallergic* draws on the strengths of each organization in order to decrease physical and economic barriers to archival research, tell more accurate craft histories, and raise the visibility and appreciation of craft scholarship in the United States. Research by the 2026 Craft Archive Fellows will appear in a *Hyperallergic* Special Edition in Fall 2027, thus ensuring that it is free to access online and easily searchable for future researchers.

OVERVIEW

Award Amount	\$5,000
Grant Period	Twelve months

TIMELINE

Applications Open	February 25, 2026
Information Session	April 7, 2026
Application Deadline	May 20, 2026
Public Announcement	August 2026
Fellowship Begins	September 2026
<i>Hyperallergic</i> Special Edition	September 2027
Public Program	September 2027
Fellowship Ends	September 30, 2027

ELIGIBILITY

Proposals are welcome from a range of scholars, from emerging to established, including artist-researchers. Funding is intended to support independent research and is not intended to support research conducted on behalf of an institution, corporation, or nonprofit organization.

Archives are repositories for and collections of primary source materials where people can conduct research. However, the histories preserved and stored within institutional libraries and archives often reflect dominant cultural narratives, limiting the types of histories that can be told and accessed by scholars in the future. This fellowship takes an expansive understanding of what an archive is, to delimit what an archive can be. For the purpose of this grant, the Center for Craft understands archival craft research as, but not limited to:

- Digital and in-person archives—Recipients can direct their research toward a digital or site-specific archive, such as institutional archives that feature underrepresented craft communities. An in-person visit is not required.
- Objects as archives—The study of a new collection of materials, such as oral histories, community-created archives, or sites or places as an archive
- Funding from this grant can be used to visit more than one archive, as funding and time permit, though engagement with a single archive is all that is expected.

Applicants must be:

- 21 years of age or older
- Eligible to receive taxable income in the United States

Applicants cannot be:

- Disqualified persons, such as substantial contributors to or current employees, consultants, or board members of the Center for Craft, or immediate family members of such a person

If an applicant has been previously awarded a Center for Craft grant but did not complete the project, or is still in the process of completing a grant or fellowship, they are not eligible to apply.

Applicants may only receive one Center for Craft grant and/or fellowship per year. Awards cannot be deferred to the next year due to outstanding applications or multiple awards.

The Center encourages applications from historically underrepresented populations. The Center for Craft prohibits discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based on sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, disability or perceived disability, age, marital status, gender identity, veteran status, or any other protected category. Applying does not constitute a promise or guarantee of being awarded a grant.

What is craft?

Craft is a particular approach to making with a strong connection to materials, skill, and process. Artists, makers, scholars, and curators continue to grow the field, embracing new definitions, technologies, and ideas while honoring craft's history and relationship to the handmade.

Craft, in all its forms, demonstrates creativity, ingenuity, and practical intelligence. It contributes to the economic and social well-being of communities, connects us to our cultural histories, and is integral to building a sustainable future.

Craft is commonly recognized as being made of clay, glass, fiber, metal, and wood. We also recognize that craft can include materials, such as concrete, plastic, gourds, shells, bones, leather, natural, and recycled materials, among others.

Use of Funds

Award funds may be used to cover travel and living expenses, personal stipends/honoraria, image rights, photocopies or other reproductions, subcontracted research assistance, purchase of primary source materials, and other incidental research expenses. Award funds may be used towards rent, childcare, and healthcare, as needed.

- For travel purposes, the Center for Craft recommends applicants use the following resources: [U.S. General Services Administration](#) and [Budget Your Trip](#).
- When working with artists (to conduct oral histories or otherwise), the Center for Craft requires recipients to provide appropriate compensation. For remuneration estimates, we recommend consulting the floor wages listed on the [Working Artists and the Greater Economy \(W.A.G.E.\)](#) fee calculator website.
- When working with community members, the Center for Craft requires that all grant recipients provide financial remuneration for their time, labor, and services rendered towards the awarded project scope and goals.
- Award funds can be used towards course buyouts, as needed.

Requirements

- Sixty percent (60%) will be awarded upon mutual completion of the grant agreement and receipt of the recipient's W9.
- Twenty percent (20%) will be awarded upon submission of a draft 1,200-word article to be published in a Special Edition article by *Hyperallergic* due July 6, 2027.

- Twenty percent (20%) will be awarded upon receipt and approval by the Center for Craft of the final report, participation in a Center for Craft virtual public program in September 2027, and finalized article for a Special Edition by *Hyperallergic* due September 1, 2027.
- Grant permission for the Center for Craft to use the language and images from the recipient's application or other high-resolution images the recipient may want to provide in press releases, social media, and/or reports of work by recipients of the 2026 Craft Archive Fellowship.
- Recipients must acknowledge support from the Center for Craft by:
 - Including the tag: "2026 Center for Craft Archive Fellow" in their email signature, website, and/or social media page for the duration of the Grant Period
 - Including on any publication or presentations resulting from the grant the Center for Craft's logo or credit line: "This research was supported by a Center for Craft Archive Fellowship."
- Projects must be completed by September 30, 2027. Fellows must participate in a fellowship debrief conversation with the Center for Craft Program Manager of Research & Ideas to share insights and feedback on their experience as a fellow, conducting their research, and findings by September 30, 2027.
- Fellows are required to disseminate their research through a 1,200 word article to be edited and published by *Hyperallergic* in a Special Edition. Article drafts are due July 6, 2027, and final edits are due September 1, 2027. Applicants will maintain rights to their work. The *Hyperallergic* Special Edition will be published in Fall 2027.
- Fellows will participate in a virtual program presented by Center for Craft in September 2027, to include a verbal presentation of their research methods.
- There is no time requirement for how long the archival visit is (three days, two weeks, etc), as this may depend on cost, size of the collection, permissions, etc. Fellows are not expected to be "in residence" for the full grant period, but rather are expected to conduct their research within the 12 month period.

CRITERIA/REVIEW PROCESS

The adjudication process will take place virtually. Applications will be reviewed first by the Center for Craft staff for completeness and then evaluated by a panel of jurors through the SlideRoom online application review portal. The panel will consist of three expert jurors, such as scholars, archivists, curators, and artist-researchers.

Jurors free of any conflict of interest will evaluate the applications based on the following criteria:

- Rigor—Research proposals should thoughtfully, accurately, and strategically contribute to contemporary scholarly dialogue commensurate with the applicant's level of practice.
- Representation—Research and writing foregrounds historically underrepresented and nondominant American craft histories and communities.
- Contribution—Research demonstrates a new, significant, and timely contribution to the field of craft.
- Feasibility—Research can effectively be conducted within the timeframe and budget.

Consideration in Final Selection:

The Center for Craft respects, values, and celebrates the unique attributes, characteristics, and perspectives that make each person who they are. We foster open communication of diverse

perspectives and bring a broad range of individuals together to enrich and support programming. Ultimately, we will ask the Selection Panel to identify a set of recipients representing a range of scholars, from emerging to established, including artists, as well as diversity, geographies, materials, approaches, and underrepresented histories.

HOW TO APPLY

Deadline

The 2026 Craft Archive Fellowship application must be submitted via **SlideRoom** no later than **11:59 pm ET on May 20, 2026**. Notification of awards will be released by the end of August 2026 for a grant period beginning September 1, 2026. ***The grant period will be completed on September 30, 2027. Fellows will present their resulting research in a Special Edition article published by Hyperallergic and a Center for Craft virtual public program in September 2027.***

Notification

Notification of the results will be sent via email by the end of August 2026, with a start date of September 1, 2026. The email address listed on the application form will be used to send out notifications. Please be sure that it is a valid email account that you check regularly.

How to Apply

Applicants must apply using the online application program SlideRoom at <https://centerforcraft.slideroom.com/#/Login>. Applicants will not be required to pay an application fee. Please review the sample application below before beginning your application. All applicants should create a login to be able to partially complete the form and return to finish it at a later date. Before submitting your application, you will be directed to a confirmation page where you can review your form and return to edit or delete your uploaded files as needed. Your application can not be accessed once submitted. Applicants will receive a confirmation email once the application form has been successfully submitted. A virtual application information session will be held on April 7, 2026, from 4:00–5:00 pm ET. **The information session will be recorded and available on the Center for Craft website.**

2026 Craft Archive Fellowship–SAMPLE APPLICATION

This is only a sample application. All applications must be completed in SlideRoom.

Proposal to be submitted via SlideRoom as follows:

Demographic Survey

The Center for Craft recognizes that demographic data is a limited way of understanding who is applying to our grant programs. However, it is also an important piece of the puzzle when it comes to developing equitable and accessible programs, and many of our funders require that we collect this information.

Please note that demographic data will remain anonymous; will in no way affect your application; and will only be used for grant writing and reporting purposes. While completion of this form is

required, you may answer any of the questions with "Prefer not to answer". If you are applying as a collaborative or organization, please select the option "Not applicable." Thank you.

1. Which age group best describes you?
2. Which of the following best describes your gender identity? (Select all that apply)
3. Do you identify as LGBTQIA+?
4. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity? (Select all that apply)
5. What is your total annual household income?
6. Do you have a disability? (such as a physical disability, a cognitive or learning disability, sensory impairment, Autism Spectrum Disorder, or mental illness)
7. If you have a disability and feel comfortable sharing, how would you describe your disability, and what accommodations would be most useful to you? (If you do not identify as having a disability, are applying on behalf of an organization or collective, or prefer not to answer, please enter N/A) *Note: Your response to this question will be used to help us make decisions about where to invest resources in staff training and accommodations to make our grant programs more accessible. As with all questions in this survey, your response will remain anonymous and confidential.*
[Open-ended response–500 character max]
8. What is the highest level of schooling you have completed or the highest degree you have completed? If currently enrolled, mark the highest level/degree already received.
9. Recognizing the limitations of check-box demographics surveys, is there anything you would like to tell us about your identity and/or the communities you belong to that the survey did not capture? (optional)
[Open-ended response–500 character max]
10. Which of the following do you most identify with? (select all that apply)

Cover sheet

1. Applicant name(s)
2. Your personal and/or project-specific website(s)
3. Are you 21 or older? (yes or no)
4. Are you able to receive income in the United States or U.S. territories taxable by the United States or U.S. territories for the duration of the project period? (yes or no)
5. Please list up to three of the communities with whom you most frequently work or which you plan to engage through your funded project. You might consider age, skill, materials, identity, sexuality, geographic area, or other characteristics that the people you work with have in common (for example, veterans, refugees, queer communities, youth, textile artists, residents of Western North Carolina, or other groups and communities of practice not mentioned here).
6. How did you learn about this opportunity?
7. Have you previously applied for a Center for Craft grant/fellowship?
8. Please provide a project title.
9. Please provide a short summary of your research proposal (no more than 50 words, 300 character limit)
10. Please provide the name of the archive(s) where you wish to conduct research.

Application

1. (Project Description) Describe your research project. How will it advance underrepresented craft histories? (500 words or less/3,000 character limit).
 - Research question(s) and relevance to the advancement of craft in the United States
 - Research methodology–What is your ideological framework?
 - Please include the craft practice(s) on which your research focuses.
2. What archive(s) do you intend to study? What collections or materials are housed there and how will they advance your project?
3. How do you relate to your area of study? Please describe your community-engaged experience over time. (500 words or less/3,000 character limit)
4. Timeline and schedule for completing the project. Fellowship begins September 1, 2026 and ends on September 30, 2027.
5. Please complete a budget expense form for your proposal (form provided in SlideRoom).
6. Optional Media Attachment: Submit up to 5 work samples. that complement or add clarity to the proposal.

Allowed Media Types:

- Images (up to 5MB each)
- Video (up to 250MB each)
- Audio (up to 30MB each)
- PDFs (up to 10MB each)

You have the option of uploading any combination of images or video links (from hosting sites such as Vimeo, Flickr, or YouTube.) During the review process, only the first two minutes of each video sample will be watched, so please edit your materials accordingly. Images should be in a JPEG format no larger than 1600 pixels on the longest side at 300 dpi. Name each jpeg file with “Last NameImageTitleNumber.jpg,” e.g., “SmithUntitled1.jpg”, “SmithUntitled2.jpg” etc. Each uploaded image or video link must be accompanied by a corresponding image description (up to 50 words). Please include title, date, medium, size, and a short description of each uploaded image or media file.

FAQs

If I win, will I have to pay taxes on my award?

Yes, all cash funding is taxable income.

May I mail a hard copy of my application materials to the Center for Craft’s office?

No, hard copy submissions will not be accepted. The application must be completed and submitted through SlideRoom.

Can I work on my application and return to complete it at a later date?

Yes, creating a login account will enable you to complete the form in several online sessions.

I just submitted my application, but I want to return to it and make an edit. Is this possible?

No, once your application is submitted, you will not be able to return to the form or change any submitted information.

I am a student. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes

I work for an institution, corporation, or nonprofit organization; however, I am applying as an individual and conducting research independently from the institution, corporation, or nonprofit organization I work for. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes.

I have previously received a Center for Craft grant. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes

I have previously received a Center for Craft grant but did not complete the project or am still in the progress of completing the project for which I was funded. Am I eligible to apply?

No

If awarded, can I use the funds to archive my own work/practice?

No

Are applicants responsible for obtaining copyrights to documents, images, and manuscripts included in their research?

Yes

Collaboratives are welcome to apply. There must be one fiduciary agent for the group or one person who will receive the award funds, as this person will be responsible for paying taxes on the award amount funded.

Who can I contact with questions?

For any questions, please contact Mellanee Goodman, Program Manager–Research & Ideas, at mgoodman@centerforcraft.org or call (828) 785-1357 ext. 103.