

2024 Creative Fellowship: Call for Proposals

Providence Public Library is now accepting applications for our 2024 Creative Fellowship. The 2024 Creative Fellow will create new, original work in the field of **writing** related to the topic of **maritime culture, whaling, and the sea** as part of the Library's 2024 exhibition.



About the Creative Fellowship

Providence Public Library offers an annual Creative Fellowship for an artist to create new work with a topical tie-in to the library's exhibition and program series. Creative Fellows perform in-depth research in our historical collections, using images and text as source material and/or inspiration.

Each year's fellowship focuses on a specified artistic discipline, rotating between visual art, performance, writing, and music/sound on a four-year cycle.

In addition to new work, a successful Creative Fellowship results in innovative, engaging **programming** and measurable instances of **engagement and learning** on the part of both the Fellow and other community members. Our hope is that a stipend alongside supported, immersive research allows the Fellow to explore new directions, topics, or methods in their own work and creative process.

Read more about Special Collections [here](#); applicants are welcome to visit during our [open hours](#) or [make an appointment](#) to meet with Special Collections staff.

About the Exhibition and Program Series

The 2024 spring exhibition and program series will be centered on the notion of the sea and particularly mariners of color writing about their experiences at sea. The series is a collaboration with the Langston Hughes Community Poetry Reading, funded by the Papitto Foundation, and it will put Hughes's time at sea in conversation with the library's [Nicholson Whaling Collection](#).

The exhibition will be on display at the Library from during Spring 2024.

Research Process and Fellowship Products

The Special Collections research process is designed to be iterative and immersive, with the Fellow receiving extensive personal attention and support through consultations with librarians

and curators, and assistance in selecting research materials to support and enrich their research interests.

Fellows may choose to focus their research on a particular collection, format, topic, or time period, or they may choose to spend time with a broad selection of Special Collections materials in support of their Fellowship project. Fellows may also augment their research with items from PPL's digital collections and databases, circulating collections, or historic periodicals.

After performing research in Special Collections, the Creative Fellow will create an original work of creative writing. "Creative" in this context does not limit the fellow to a traditional work of fiction, but the fellowship is not intended to support biographical or historical writing on the topic. The written work should be intended for a general, rather than academic, audience.

Fellowship products will include:

- An original work of creative writing, to be provided digitally and/or in hard copy.
- An interactive workshop or artist's talk open to members of the public.
- Archival-quality documentation of the Fellow's new work for inclusion in PPL's Special Collections in the form of photographs, video, prints, or other paper-based or digital formats.
- Ongoing documentation of the fellow's research and creative process for PPL's social media.

Stipend and Benefits

The 2024 Creative Fellow will receive a stipend in the amount of \$1500, with an additional amount of up to \$500 reimbursable for supplies or materials costs.

Other benefits include extensive research support from Special Collections staff as described above, with opportunities to build connections with librarians, archivists, and curators in other local libraries and museums.

Timeline

October 1, 2023: Application materials are due by 5 p.m.

October 14, 2023: Creative Fellow is selected; all applicants will receive notification of their status on or before this date.

October 2023 - March 2024: Creative Fellow performs self-paced research in the Library's Special Collections. The Fellow documents their research and creative process for inclusion in PPL's social media.

April, 2024: exhibition opens.

April 1 - June 30, 2024: The Fellow's work should be completed and viewable by the public during this window. Additionally, artist's talk/workshop will be scheduled during this time, with date based on the Fellow's availability and preference.

June 30, 2024: Closing date for exhibition and program series; Fellow's final products must be delivered on or before this date.

Eligibility

Application is open to practicing artists 16 years of age or older.

How to Apply

All proposals must be submitted electronically by the end of the business day on **October 1, 2023**. Applications should be emailed to:

special_collections@provlib.org

A complete application consists of the following (details about each below):

- proposal in body of email
- 3-6 writing samples
- short artist biography (PDF) as email attachment

Proposal

The written proposal should describe the applicant's potential project with some specificity. (For example: "I intend to write a screenplay for an unaired episode of Seinfeld set during a whaling

voyage...”) We understand that projects grow and change during the research process, sometimes dramatically, but want to know what you have in mind in terms of format and scope.

The proposal should also address how the applicant would work within the Fellowship’s budgetary limitations, how the applicant envisions Special Collections materials influencing or being integrated into their work, how the finished project will be made accessible to or viewable by the public, and how the applicant’s project will relate to the theme of the exhibition.

Work samples

Please submit 3-6 recent, representative samples of your work. These can be submitted as files attached to your proposal, or you can link to online content or to a Dropbox or GoogleDrive folder. If you would like to provide context or explanation for any of the work samples, feel free to attach a description in a PDF document.

Description of experience: A résumé or written narrative of the applicant’s knowledge and experience in performance is required.

Artist biography: Please submit a short artist biography to help us understand you, your context, your approach, and your inspiration.

Review Process

The 2024 Creative Fellow will be selected based on the quality and consistency of work samples; the potential of the proposed project to be accessible and interesting to a diverse audience; and the connections between the proposed project and the exhibition theme / PPL’s Special Collections materials.

Questions? Contact Special Collections at special_collections@provlib.org.