

History Colorado Collections Diversity Fellowship

Interested in a career in museums? Curious about how collections are used to engage the public? Want to earn extra funds while building your resume? This program encourages you to explore a career in museums while learning about collections care and the ways in which collections and curatorial staff work to increase access to the collection.

The History Colorado Collections Diversity Fellowship encourages undergraduate and graduate students from diverse communities who are enrolled at an accredited Colorado university or college to explore collections-related work and the challenges within museums, historical organizations, and cultural institutions as they relate to inclusion, representation, narrative, and the workforce. Acceptance into the program is a competitive process and only completed applications will be considered. After reviewing applications, some students will be offered an in-person interview with program staff.

This 350-hour-long fellowship will offer students the opportunity to work on a specific collections-based project at History Colorado. The Collections Diversity Fellowship is designed to engage students in the care, preservation, and interpretation of the History Colorado Permanent Collection. The Collections Diversity Fellowship will also include aspects of public engagement with a final presentation and/or social media post.

About the Diversity Fellowship

Fellows will receive a stipend of \$2250. The Collections Diversity Fellowship stipend is not salary or compensation. The Fellowship stipend is meant to support study and research during the tenure of the appointment and will be issued in one installment on June 30, 2020.

The History Colorado Collections Diversity Fellowship is a proactive initiative to bring more diverse experiences and individuals into the History Colorado organization.

Since cultural organizations tend to be representative of the social structures and political traditions of the groups who created them, it can take a determined effort to make their staff, programs, and collections more reflective of diverse populations. Communities need to “see themselves” in the work of cultural organizations in order to identify with their missions.

For museums, diversity and community engagement are not issues of political correctness. The demographic shifts in Colorado require History Colorado and other cultural organizations to diversify the perspective of their establishments in order to truly fulfill their missions.

Spring 2020 Collections Diversity Fellowship

What is the project, why is it important?

Throughout the Curatorial Services and Collections Access (CSCA) department are several opportunities to complete projects to assist CSCA staff in the ongoing curatorial and collections daily work. These projects seek to add information and historical context to existing collection information, both for History Colorado objects and loaned materials on view in exhibits at the Center and stored at the off-site storage facility. Fellow will learn how to use the various collections databases and resources utilized by museum staff.

Projects include the successful completion of the following:

- Condition report and photograph of History Colorado objects of *Beer Here!* and *What's Your Story?* Exhibitions under supervision of Exhibits and Loan Registrar
- Condition report, measure, and photograph returned loaned objects from closed outgoing loan at the off-site storage facility under the supervision of the Collections Manager

Additional projects should time allow:

- Integrate archaeological pieces back into their respective collections under the supervision of the Curator of Archaeology and Ethnography.
- Provide customer service at Research Center during public hours under supervision of the Research Center Manager

This project will add information and historical context to the existing collection and loan information. The project will make this information available to the public through our online collections catalog.

What qualifications do I need to apply?

History Colorado is seeking a graduate student in History, Museum Studies, Archives Management, Art History or a related program, to complete and enhance this project. Applicants must currently be enrolled at an accredited Colorado University or College for Spring 2020. Applicants must be prepared to complete the fellowship 3 days a week, totaling 24 hours a week, from May 18, 2020 to June 30, 2020 at the History Colorado Center and off-site storage facility.

The successful candidate must be from a diverse community, creative, self-motivated, and an intellectually curious individual committed to the mission of History Colorado to create a better future for Colorado by inspiring wonder in our past.

Application Process

To apply, please send a cover letter introducing yourself and explaining your interest in the program, along with a current resume and contact information to Curatorial Services and Collections Access, Diversity Fellowship, History Colorado, 1200 Broadway, Denver, Colorado, 80203. You can also email your application to kimberly.kronwall@state.co.us (please include Diversity Fellowship in the subject line).

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Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2020.