PUBLIC HUMANITIES INITIATIVE IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION
2024-2025 FELLOWSHIPS

JOB TITLE: Public Humanities Doctoral Fellow

ORGANIZATION: The Museum of the City of New York

LOCATION: 1220 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10029

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

www.mcny.org

The Museum of the City of New York celebrates and interprets the city, educating the public about its distinctive character, especially its heritage of diversity, opportunity, and perpetual transformation. Founded in 1923 as a private, nonprofit corporation, the Museum connects the past, present, and future of New York City. It serves the people of New York and visitors from around the world through exhibitions, school and public programs, publications, and collections.

Since 1923, the Museum has been here to document New York’s stories and celebrate our greatest moments of reinvention. Now celebrating 100 years as New York’s storyteller, the Museum’s centennial exhibitions and programming celebrates the entire city over these past one hundred years – a time when New York took its place as the most influential, most complicated, and most-watched place on the planet.

The NYU Public Humanities Fellow will work in the Museum’s education department conducting research, engaging directly with the public through teaching, and developing and helping to manage programming for audiences of all ages. They will also interface with colleagues in the curatorial and collections teams, leaving the fellowship with a well-rounded experience in how museums develop experiences and content for the public.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Students applying for the NYU Public Humanities Fellowship Program may select the Museum of the City of New York as a desired host site. The Museum seeks
applications from students who wish to gain valuable hands-on experience in public history, teaching, and direct service work.

The Fellowship offers extensive experience and training in teaching and working with the public, in addition to opportunities to conduct research on a wide variety of topics related to programming at the Museum. The Fellow will be in residence at the Museum for 20 hours per week for the academic year, during which time they will be fully integrated into the life of the Museum. The Fellow will help enhance and expand educational activities at the Museum’s Frederick A.O. Schwarz Education Center. Their specific focus will be to support programming and content development for teachers and adult audiences, while also contributing research and support for select K-12 student programs. Learn more about the Center’s work here:

www.mcny.org/education

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Fellow will enhance the content of Schwarz Center programming by incorporating contemporary scholarship and diverse perspectives into curriculum, public talks, and museum tours. They will research, write, and present educational material including lectures, workshops, and printed materials for New York City K-12 educators, will lead tours for adult groups, and will help to produce full-day events including community programs and professional learning days for educators. In return, they will hone their public engagement skills, benefiting potential future work as public history professionals.

- The Fellow will research topics related to the history and future of New York City linked to Museum exhibitions and will prepare background material for presentation in student- and teacher-focused programs.

- The Fellow will work directly alongside and receive mentorship from the Museum’s education team members. They will also meet and interface with Museum staff across the institution, including curatorial, collections, and marketing staff, to gain a first-hand perspective of the workings of a public-facing cultural institution.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Museum encourages humanities scholars whose work is interdisciplinary and related to advancing the understanding of the historical and/or contemporary issues surrounding New York, and urbanism more broadly, and who have an interest in material/and or visual culture. Preference will be given to scholars whose work
connects to the exhibitions and/or programs at the Museum of the City of New York. For a list of current and upcoming exhibitions, visit www.mcny.org/exhibitions

APPLICANTS MUST HAVE

- demonstrated research or professional interest in one or more of the following areas related to the exhibitions and collections of the Museum:
  - New York City
  - Social activism
  - New York art, architecture, fashion, media, film, or design
  - Immigration, ethnic studies
  - LGBTQ history
  - Urban planning, urban policy, or urban design strategies
  - Urban environmental and/or sustainability studies
  - Colonial history and post-colonial legacies
- an interest in material and/or visual culture and a commitment to interdisciplinary approaches
- a good rapport working with and/or interest in learning how to present information to audiences of varied backgrounds
- interest in researching and learning about topics outside of their areas of expertise
- strong writing skills
- strong interpersonal communication skills
- an interest in working with the public and sharing nuanced historical information with diverse populations
- flexibility and a commitment to working collaboratively
- basic computer skills; familiarity with Microsoft Office Suite a plus

SPECIFIC APPLICATION QUESTION

In addition to the required application for the NYU Public Humanities Fellowship Program, applicants are asked to respond to the following questions:

What excites you about sharing the stories of New York City’s past, present, and future with the public? How do you see your interests and/or past experiences as useful for supporting the mission and programs of the Museum of the City of New York?

The Museum of the City of New York is committed to fostering a collaborative and respectful work environment with a staff as diverse as New York City and the audiences who are curious about learning more about its history and engaging in contemporary urban issues. Our staff members are dedicated to working towards a common goal: creating the most dynamic and inspiring city museum in the world.

Visit gsas.nyu.edu/public-humanities-initiative.html to learn more about the Public Humanities Initiative in Doctoral Education program. This position is only available through this program; please do not contact the host organization directly.
The Museum of the City of New York is an equal opportunity employer. As such, the museum provides equal employment opportunity for all employees and applicants without unlawful discrimination with respect to age, citizenship status, color, creed, disability, ethnicity, gender identification, marital status, military status or veteran, national origin, political association, political/personal convictions, predisposing genetic characteristics, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, geographic location, philosophies, or any other classification protected by federal, state or local laws, in all employment decisions, including but not limited to recruitment, hiring, training, compensation, promotion, demotion, transfer, lay-off, and termination, and all other terms and conditions of employment. All employment-related decisions are based solely on relevant criteria including training, experience, and suitability.

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