

NYBG

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

CALL FOR RESEARCH ASSISTANT – ORAL HISTORIES

The Humanities Institute has expanded its research in the vital field of Food Humanities. Pivotal to its new research activities is the *Bronx Foodways Oral Histories Project*, a multi-year effort to collect and record personal food narratives from a wide network of Bronx community gardeners and urban farmers. Their stories and cultural traditions around growing and preparing food will be carefully archived for posterity and made accessible to the community and the wider public.

Research Assistant Position: To coordinate the *Bronx Foodways Oral Histories Project*, the Humanities Institute is pleased to offer a *Summer Research Assistantship* for a currently enrolled graduate student with knowledge of and experience in Oral History Best Practices.

Job Description:

This position is offered to a graduate student in the discipline of Oral History, with a basic understanding of Food Humanities. The successful candidate will produce oral histories content in partnership with NYBG staff and *Bronx Green-Up* team.

We seek a candidate with strong interpersonal skills, demonstrated experience with community-based projects involving communities from diverse cultural backgrounds, recruiting people for interviews, and knowledge of oral history best practices, interviewing techniques and theory, as well as ethics in working with human subjects and potentially sensitive cultural information. Background in the discipline of Oral History required; background in Food Studies, anthropology and/or the social sciences desirable.

Under the supervision of the Research Director of the Humanities Institute, the Summer Research Assistant will work with NYBG staff and *Bronx Green-Up* team to further develop and support the oral histories project, including the gathering of personal narratives, their editing and detailed online curation. The *Bronx Foodways Oral Histories Project* requires the Research Assistant to conduct one-on-one interviews outdoors, at community gardens and urban farms. The interviews with all their formatted components (audio, transcriptions, photos) must be edited and curated by the Research Assistant in order to be shared publicly on an accessible community archive. Important historical collections in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library and the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium will be taken into consideration to develop the narratives and broaden their long-term cultural value.

Eligibility: Graduate students who at the time of application are actively enrolled in a masters or doctoral program and have Oral Histories experience. Students from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities and underrepresented communities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Period of Research Assistantship: Four months/16 weeks; 30 hours a week. This summer research position is scheduled to run from mid-June to mid-October, 2022.

Stipend:

\$12,000 (twelve thousand US dollars).

How to apply:

The application, to be written in English, must be submitted electronically by **March 15, 2022**, to: [Humanities Institute Secured FileShare](#)

Applications should include:

- Complete curriculum vitae of education, professional experience, honors, awards, and publications.
- Copy of Graduate transcripts (electronic copies will be accepted).
- Two letters of recommendation (PDF) to be sent by the recommenders directly to [Humanities Institute Secured FileShare](#)

Deadline:

The deadline for all job application materials, including the letters of recommendation, is March 15, 2022.

Any questions related to the Mellon Fellowship should be directed to hifellows@nybg.org

Learn more about the Humanities Institute at nybg.org/humanities