



The Humanities Center Public Humanities Fellow Program
2018 Position Descriptions

Position 1

LOCATION: City of Asylum

DATES: May 14-June 22; OR June 25-August 3 [This is a 6-week position]

Organization Description

Mission

City of Asylum creates a thriving community for writers, readers, and neighbors. We provide sanctuary to endangered literary writers, so that they can continue to write and their voices are not silenced. We offer a broad range of literary programs in a variety of community settings to encourage cross-cultural exchange. We anchor neighborhood economic development by transforming blighted properties into homes for these programs and energizing public spaces through public art with text-based components.

History

In 1989, after publication of his novel *The Satanic Verses*, a fatwa was issued by the Supreme Leader of Iran that ordered the killing of its author, Salman Rushdie. As a result, Rushdie was forced into hiding. Because of Rushdie's fame and his resources, he was able to do this securely, though as his memoir *Joseph Anton* reveals, even his resources were stretched to the limit. Most endangered writers, however, come from circumstances where they have neither fame nor resources.

In 1993, in response to a growing incidence of attacks on writers and specifically writer assassinations in Algeria, a group of writers led by Rushdie formed the International Parliament of Writers. At the behest of the IPW, governments in several European cities agreed to provide one to two years of support for endangered writers in exile. These were called "Cities of Asylum," and they aimed to protect not only freedom of speech and freedom of publication, but also the physical safety of writers.

In 1997, Salman Rushdie gave a talk in Pittsburgh as part of his re-emergence into public life, during which he briefly mentioned the Cities of Asylum network. Diane Samuels and Henry Reese happened to be in the audience, and they were immediately drawn to this mission. Following the talk, they wrote to Cities of Asylum in Europe about starting a chapter in Pittsburgh. Getting no response, they regularly e-mailed their inquiry, until in 2003 they were put in contact with author Russell Banks, who was charged with expanding the Cities of Asylum movement to the U.S.

City of Asylum/Pittsburgh, along with two other U.S. cities — Las Vegas and Ithaca — quickly joined the network. Las Vegas and Ithaca were sponsored by universities; Pittsburgh, however, began and continues to operate with a different model than all other Cities of Asylum. Rather than being institutionally sponsored, it is a grassroots organization, supported by the generosity of individuals and

foundations. Rather than focusing on emergency relief and providing a temporary way-station for an exiled writer, City of Asylum Pittsburgh's commitment was to help the writer build a new home and a new life as part of a community.

Position: Current Events at Alphabet City

The fellow will research and propose guest speakers and moderators for a series of four events at Alphabet City during fall 2018. These events will be structured as public discussions with an audience of 70-100 people, followed by Q&A. The series will be about current events in the US.

The four topics/events City of Asylum would like to address in this series are:

1. Gerrymandering
2. DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)
3. The Prison System in America
4. Colorism (<http://time.com/4512430/colorism-in-america/>)

The fellow will conduct research to find engaging US-based guests to bring to Alphabet City and will propose four guests and two moderators for each topic. The guests should be prominent researchers, writers, or other public figures; the moderators should be based in Pittsburgh and will ideally have some connection to the topic and experience moderating. The fellow will provide a report and contact information to City of Asylum for each recommended guest. City of Asylum will then choose one guest and moderator for each topic. City of Asylum is open to suggestions for additional events or other ways of framing the issues listed above, based on the fellow's research.

City of Asylum will bring the guests to Alphabet City via Google Hangout, though it will be possible to bring people in person if resources permit. City of Asylum will be in charge of organizing and presenting the event, and will introduce or involve the fellow if they would like to be involved.

The Public Humanities Fellow will:

- Research the issues listed above.
- Locate individuals associated with these issues who can speak authoritatively and engagingly on the topics, and who engage the issues from different angles.
- Locate local individuals who can serve as moderators for the events.
- Prepare a report for City of Asylum recommending guests and moderators for each of the topics listed above.

Desired Qualifications:

- Ability to work independently and in collaboration with City of Asylum staff.
- Ability to think flexibly and productively about the issues listed above.
- Ability to develop an effective work plan, organize details, set priorities, and meet deadlines.
- Experience programming around current events a plus.

Position 2

LOCATION: City of Asylum

DATES: May 14-June 22; OR June 25-August 3 [This is a 6-week position]

Organization Description

Mission

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History

In 1989, after publication of his novel *The Satanic Verses*, a fatwa was issued by the Supreme Leader of Iran that ordered the killing of its author, Salman Rushdie. As a result, Rushdie was forced into hiding. Because of Rushdie's fame and his resources, he was able to do this securely, though as his memoir *Joseph Anton* reveals, even his resources were stretched to the limit. Most endangered writers, however, come from circumstances where they have neither fame nor resources.

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Position: Exploring Pittsburgh's North Side at Alphabet City

The fellow will research and propose guest speakers and moderators for a series of four events at Alphabet City during fall 2018. These events will be structured as public discussions with an audience of 70-100 people, followed by Q&A. The series will examine various issues affecting Pittsburgh's North Side. One goal of the series is to provide a public space to discuss difficult issues such as race, class, or the inequalities of urban development.

The four topics/events City of Asylum would like to address in this series are:

1. Race on Pittsburgh's North Side
2. Violence
3. Gentrification
4. Senior Natives of the North Side

The scholar will do a field study in the North Side, identify four possible guests for each topic (City of Asylum can provide some contacts to begin the study) and prepare a report for City of Asylum explaining their proposals. The fellow will also propose two moderators for each topic (possibly based at the University of Pittsburgh) who have done research in relevant areas and have moderating experience. City of Asylum will then choose one guest and moderator for each topic. City of Asylum is open to suggestions for additional events or other ways of framing the issues listed above, based on the fellow's research.

City of Asylum will be in charge of organizing and presenting the event, and will introduce or involve the fellow if they would like to be involved.

The Public Humanities Fellow will:

- Research the issues listed above.
- Locate individuals associated with these issues who can speak authoritatively and engagingly on the topics, and who engage the issues from different angles.
- Locate local individuals who can serve as moderators for the events.
- Prepare a report for City of Asylum recommending guests and moderators for each of the topics listed above.

Desired Qualifications:

- Ability to work independently and in collaboration with City of Asylum staff.
- Ability to think flexibly and productively about the issues listed above.
- Ability to develop an effective work plan, organize details, set priorities, and meet deadlines.
- Experience creating programs addressing local issues a plus.

Position 3

LOCATION: Heinz History Center

DATES: May 14-August 3; OR May 14-June 22; OR June 25-August 3 [This is a 12- or 6-week position]

Organization Description

Mission

The History Center* is an educational institution that engages, informs and inspires large and diverse audiences through museum, virtual, and outreach programs that enable links to the past, understanding in the present, and guidance for the future by preserving regional history and presenting the American experience with a Western Pennsylvania connection. This work is accomplished in partnership with others through archaeology, artifact collections, broadcast media and the internet, conservation, educational programs, exhibitions, events, library & archives, museums, performance, publications, products, research, and technical assistance.

History

Founded in 1879, the History Center serves the people of Western Pennsylvania as the oldest cultural institution in Pittsburgh; “The Smithsonian in Pittsburgh;” the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, serving as a leader in best practices for museums and providing assistance to organizations through our affiliates program; the official historical society of Allegheny County; an official Visitor Information Center for the City of Pittsburgh; and a leader in community initiatives. The History Center is accredited through the American Alliance of Museums, a distinction awarded to less than 10% of museums nationwide. The History Center is the keeper of our region’s memory, preserving the inspirational stories from Western Pennsylvania’s past for future generations.

Position: Highlighting Medical Innovation in Pittsburgh’s History

The theme of innovation is prominent in History Center exhibits and is the central focus of our core exhibition “Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation.” From airbrakes to zombies – and everything in between – new ideas from this region have changed the world. This is a place of innovation; a place where innovators found a culture focused on hard work and supportive of new ideas, with individuals and institutions willing to provide the capital needed to transform those ideas to reality. This environment fueled the process of innovation. From that process, in this place, innovators have generated ideas that have changed the course of history.

The exhibit “Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation” includes a number of recurrent threads that are central to the telling of the story of innovation. One of those central themes is the history of innovation in medicine. While many people in the region may be aware that Dr. Jonas Salk and his team developed a vaccine for polio here or that Dr. Thomas Starzl made liver transplantation a reality, few likely realize

* The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, founded in 1879, today does business as the Senator John Heinz History Center, which includes the Detre Library & Archives, Fort Pitt Museum, Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, and the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum.

the major impact advances in medicine and medical technology from the region have had on the larger world.

The History Center has received funding to update and expand the story of innovations in medicine in our “Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation” exhibit. We are seeking a researcher who can delve into this story and provide the research needed to ground new interpretation and also advise on the possible assets for expanding the exhibit – be they objects, images, film, audio, or other materials.

The Public Humanities Fellow will:

- Work with the Director of the Curatorial Division, Anne Madarasz, to chart a course for researching medical innovation in the region.
- Research in History Center and regional archives to develop a more comprehensive history of medical innovation in the region, focused on the post-World War II era to the present, but that acknowledges and considers earlier stories such as homeopathic medicine (Shadyside Hospital 1866 and Dr. McClelland).
- Think broadly about new research in areas such as biomedical and tissue engineering, as well as medical technologies dealing with health issues such as sleep apnea, and chronicle those stories.
- If time allows, develop some narrative (may include exhibit labels) writing for the exhibit and work with design and curatorial staff to discuss interpreting this research in the exhibit space.
- Develop a list of potential exhibit resources – artifacts, imagery, audio, video, etc. that could be used to interpret each story.

Desired Qualifications:

- An understanding of Western Pennsylvania history and the historical context for research.
- Ability to work independently and as a team member with HHC staff.
- Experience with primary research – an understanding and appreciation of material culture/public history is a plus.
- Experience with research in the history of medical or medical humanities is a plus.
- Strong writing and oral communication skills.
- Organized with an ability to meet project deadlines.
- Ability to travel within Pittsburgh and research at other institutions if needed.
- Strong interpersonal skills – comfortable with oral history or interviewing content experts if needed.

Position 4

LOCATION: Heinz History Center

DATES: May 14-August 3; OR May 14-June 22; OR June 25-August 3 [This is a 12- or 6-week position]

Organization Description

Mission

The History Center* is an educational institution that engages, informs and inspires large and diverse audiences through museum, virtual, and outreach programs that enable links to the past, understanding in the present, and guidance for the future by preserving regional history and presenting the American experience with a Western Pennsylvania connection. This work is accomplished in partnership with others through archaeology, artifact collections, broadcast media and the internet, conservation, educational programs, exhibitions, events, library & archives, museums, performance, publications, products, research, and technical assistance.

History

Founded in 1879, the History Center serves the people of Western Pennsylvania as the oldest cultural institution in Pittsburgh; “The Smithsonian in Pittsburgh;” the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, serving as a leader in best practices for museums and providing assistance to organizations through our affiliates program; the official historical society of Allegheny County; an official Visitor Information Center for the City of Pittsburgh; and a leader in community initiatives. The History Center is accredited through the American Alliance of Museums, a distinction awarded to less than 10% of museums nationwide. The History Center is the keeper of our region’s memory, preserving the inspirational stories from Western Pennsylvania’s past for future generations.

Position: Celebrating Italian-American History in Pittsburgh

The History Center’s Italian American Program is looking for a humanities graduate student who will research and craft a written history of the program in preparation for its 30th anniversary in 2020. Founded in 1990, the Italian American Program manages one of the largest repositories of Italian American artifacts and archives in the United States. It is dedicated to documenting, preserving, and interpreting the history and culture of Southwestern Pennsylvania’s Italian American community through exhibitions, educational programs, publications, and community outreach.

The Italian American Program is one of the only programs of its kind in the United States and its model remains unique in the field of Italian American Studies and American History. A written account of the program’s evolution and milestones would serve as a case study and, upon the celebration of its thirtieth anniversary, may be published in a catalog on the Italian American Collection.

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The Public Humanities Fellow will:

- Work with the Director of the Italian American program, Melissa E. Marinaro, to write a complete history of the Italian American Program.
- Research in program records and regional archives to develop a timeline of the Italian American Program that puts the program into a national context.
- Identify milestones, events, and critical stakeholders of the program.
- If time allows, illustrate the written history with select photographs, graphics, and/or appendices.

Desired Qualifications:

- An understanding of Western Pennsylvania history and the historical context for research.
- Ability to work independently and as a team member with HHC staff.
- Experience with primary research – an understanding and appreciation of material culture/public history is a plus.
- Strong writing and oral communication skills.
- Organized with an ability to meet project deadlines.
- Ability to develop an effective work plan, organize details, set priorities, and meet deadlines.

Position 5

LOCATION: Kelly Strayhorn Theater

DATES: May 14-August 3 [This is a 12-week position]

Organization Description

Mission

The mission of the Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST) is to serve as a catalyst for creative expression and the active engagement of audiences. Focusing on the performing and media arts of our time, KST takes a diverse, multidisciplinary, inclusive, and international approach to the presentation and understanding of performance arts. KST programs examine the questions that define and inspire us as individuals and communities.

History

Named for two of Pittsburgh's most celebrated talents in the last century—dancer Gene Kelly and composer Billy Strayhorn—the Kelly Strayhorn Theater contributes to the renaissance of East Liberty and redefines theater with provocative, original programming and a social experience unlike any other venue in the region. KST celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2014–2015 and continues to play a key role in the vibrant and diverse cultural history of Pittsburgh's East Liberty.

The Kelly Strayhorn Theater is a destination for innovative works in dance, theater, music and live art. KST encourages diverse, inclusive, and high-quality, artistic, cultural and educational activities through the Alloy School, artSEEDS student matinees, and artist residency programs. By nurturing these pursuits, we contribute to cultural understanding, quality of life, as well as economic development in our community, county, city, and region.

Position: Celebrating 10 Years of KST Presents—Artist Profiles

The Kelly Strayhorn Theater is looking for a humanities graduate student who will help plan and execute a project highlighting the 10th anniversary of KST Presents, the theater's series designed to showcase new and innovative work. Working with KST staff, the fellow will select one performer from each year of the series' existence and create a profile of that performer.

Materials for use in the project include an archive of photos, interviews, and notes from nearly 50 international artists who have performed at the theater as part of the series. The final format of the profiles (online, print, etc.) will be developed in consultation with KST staff. Goals for the project include highlighting the diversity and innovation that has characterized the KST Presents series from its inception, and the impact that the series has had on the local community.

The Public Humanities Fellow will:

- Conduct research in the archive of materials from KST Presents performances.
- Work with KST staff to create a list of performers to document the history of the series.
- Create profiles of artists that demonstrate an awareness of the way that KST positions itself within local, regional, and national communities.
- Work with KST staff to think about possible uses for the project when complete.

Desired Qualifications

- Excellent research skills.
- Comfort using various forms of media.
- Ability to work independently and in collaboration with KST staff.
- Ability to develop an effective work plan, organize details, set priorities, and meet deadlines.

Position 6

LOCATION: Pittsburgh Filmmakers

DATES: May 14-August 3; OR May 14-June 22; OR June 25-August 3 [This is a 12- or 6-week position]

Organization Description

Mission

Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts (PF/PCA) is committed to the artist and the advancement of artistic excellence in visual arts – specifically film, digital video, photography, media, and fine and creative arts and crafts; the provision of equipment and facilities for artists; the conduct of instructional programs; and the stimulation of public understanding and awareness through exhibitions, demonstrations, and sales.

PF/PCA is dedicated to nurturing and encouraging artists, and the advancement of artistic excellence in all forms of visual art, from existing disciplines to those yet to be imagined. The artistic exchange, the sharing of thoughtful experiences with others, is at the core of our cultural philosophy. We believe that cultivating a fertile environment for artistic exploration and expression is essential to the community's growth. It is crucial that art (making it and showing it) is accessible. The creation of art is inextricably linked to free thought; and should never be limited. Art inspires community, at every level, to advance cultural dialogue. PF/PCA provides opportunities for this sort of dialogue by focusing on both content, and space, creating environments that encourage an open exchange of images and ideas.

History & Today

Pittsburgh Filmmakers, Inc. was founded in 1971 and is a private, nonprofit corporation designed to encourage the creation and understanding of media and still photography for noncommercial artistic and literary purposes. To this end, a curriculum of courses in film, video, and photography production and theory are offered for credit through several colleges and universities as well as for non-credit to independent students in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area. Filmmakers is a non-degree granting, accredited institutional member of National Association of Schools of Arts and Design. It also exhibits the work of prominent photographers and filmmakers in its Melwood Screening Room, Regent Square Theater and Harris Theater. Filmmakers provides equipment access and funding for media artists. Founded in 1945, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts is a non-profit community arts campus that offers arts education programs and contemporary art exhibitions, providing services and resources for individual artists throughout Western Pennsylvania. The Center is where the community can create, see, support, and learn about visual arts. Pittsburgh Filmmakers and the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts merged as a single cultural organization in 2006.

Position: Humanities & Film Programmer In-Residence

Pittsburgh Filmmakers is looking to work with a guest researcher or curator to use the moving and/or networked image as a tool for engaging and presenting research. Research does not have to focus on the history film or the moving image itself. Rather, we are interested in curating and presenting a series of works that use the moving image as a lens through which to view and/or conduct humanities research. This may include, but is not limited to:

- curating a series of films/videos and lectures for public screening
- developing a unique body of work for presentation (i.e. an essay film, series of shorts, etc.)
- presenting an expanded media performance/lecture series utilizing Filmmakers theaters

Successful projects will translate research to audiences in engaging and accessible ways and provide an opportunity to consider the various ways the moving image works in our contemporary society.

Fellows will be responsible for two public presentations, one at the beginning and one at the end of their residency period. They will also be expected to engage across the Exhibition/Film program and Education/Community programs at Pittsburgh Filmmakers. They will receive summer office space; technical, administrative, curatorial, and marketing support to produce public programs; and as-needed additional technical assistance from Pittsburgh Filmmakers staff to help develop original works.

The Public Humanities Fellow will:

- Conduct independent research.
- Work with PF/PCA Director of Exhibitions & Programming to create a public screening/presentation series.
- Work with PF/PCA programming and educational staff to think about possible integration with PF/PCA curricula when complete.

Desired Qualifications:

- Excellent research and public presentation skills.
- A demonstrated interest in and working knowledge of moving and/or networked image culture (film, video, animation, and web-based works and evolving platforms for story telling (i.e. YouTube).
- Ability to work independently and in collaboration with PF/PCA staff.
- Ability to develop an effective work plan, organize details, set priorities, and meet deadlines.

Position 7

LOCATION: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

DATES: May 14-August 3 [This is a 12-week position]

Organization Description

Mission

The mission of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is to improve quality of life for all of the people of Pittsburgh by restoring the park system to excellence in partnership with government and the community. Projects and programs are conducted with respect for the environment, historic design, and the diverse needs of the region.

History

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy was formed in 1996 when a group of concerned citizens joined forces to address the deteriorated state of city parks. They committed their efforts to improve quality of life for all of the people of Pittsburgh by restoring the park system to excellence. Adapting an innovative public/private partnership model, in 2001 the Parks Conservancy and the city jointly published Pittsburgh's *Regional Parks Master Plan: A New Ethic of Stewardship* as the blueprint for parks restoration. In 2011, this master plan was updated to accommodate changing circumstances and a broadening scope of work.

Today, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is a national leader in parks planning, restoration, management, and maintenance. The organization fulfills its mission through: revitalizing historic landscapes and buildings; conserving and creating public artworks; restoring natural areas; expanding environmental education and volunteer programs, and managing and programming the Frick Environmental Center, Schenley Plaza, and Schenley Park Café and Visitor Center. The Parks Conservancy was originally focused on the city's four historic regional parks, but public recognition of the organization's capabilities have led to requests from neighborhood groups, development organizations, and elected officials for assistance in other city, community, and neighborhood parks.

For over two decades, the Parks Conservancy has been promoting awareness of the important role parks play in enhancing quality of life for all. Regular park use and access to nature improves the health and sense of well-being of urban residents. Well-maintained parks increase property values, attract new investment, and connect people and places within urban environments. Additionally, parks have wide-ranging environmental benefits—including stormwater management, improving air and water quality, and limiting the impact of the urban heat island. They also provide living classrooms where students make inspired and lasting connections to nature and gain an understanding of the fragility of Earth's ecosystems. These experiences help develop scientifically literate adults prepared to make informed decisions about environmental policy and conservation.

Position: Activating the Frick Environmental Center's Arts Program

In September 2016, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy opened the Frick Environmental Center in Frick Park. The new center is Platinum LEED Certified and the only publicly owned and freely accessible Living Building Challenge site in the world. To meet the requirements of the Living Building Challenge, the

building must supply its own energy and water on a net zero annual basis. The building has a geothermal pump that supplies heat from the Earth's core; solar energy provides electrical power; and rainwater is captured, filtered, and recycled for building use and irrigation. In short, the Environmental Center is one of the greenest buildings in the world.

The Environmental Center's Living Building Challenge certification also specifies that art must be integrated into the site's design and operation. Incorporating beauty to elevate and inspire the building's users continues to inform the building's programming. In the early planning phase, the Parks Conservancy committed to an environmental art program at the Center, and artists were involved throughout the design/build process. "Rain Ravine" by Stacy Levy is a public art installation that captures rainwater as it cascades off the building's roof into an extended series of sandstone ledges and channels following hillside contours down to the wetlands below. In addition, local artisans were commissioned to create ornamental iron and to transform reclaimed trees into interior furnishings.

We are interested in expanding our focus on art to include performing arts, particularly music. We are interested in a project that would combine performance and youth education in a new composition or series of works that are inspired by nature, particularly as it exists in the city's parks. The youth education component would involve working with middle-school and/or high school-aged students with some musical training in an afterschool or summer program for a one-time series lasting 4 to 6 weeks. The students would contribute to the development of the composition, its production, and performance. The music programs at Hope Academy in East Liberty and the Lighthouse Project and Westinghouse Academy are potential partners in this project.

The Public Humanities Fellow will:

- Assist the director in developing a list of topics and a schedule of classes and workshops with a focus on art and nature.
- Conduct programs with offerings for children, primarily middle-school and high-school ages.
- Produce an original composition or other works of art. Identify and serve as a liaison to potential partners.
- Assist in researching and identifying grant opportunities to help underwrite the art program.

Desired Qualifications

- Ability to work independently and in collaboration with PPC staff.
- Ability to develop an effective work plan, organize details, set priorities, and meet deadlines.
- Excellent interpersonal and research skills.
- Experience in or familiarity with art curation and production, and/or arts education.

Please note: For this position (position 7), fellows will be required to successfully complete PA Act 153 clearances and background checks prior to commencement of the fellowship and as a condition of continued participation. The clearances include PA State Police Criminal Record Check, FBI Criminal Record Check, PA Child Abuse History Clearance.

Position 8

LOCATION: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

DATES: May 14-August 3 [This is a 12-week position]

Organization Description

Mission

The mission of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is to improve quality of life for all of the people of Pittsburgh by restoring the park system to excellence in partnership with government and the community. Projects and programs are conducted with respect for the environment, historic design, and the diverse needs of the region.

History

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy was formed in 1996 when a group of concerned citizens joined forces to address the deteriorated state of city parks. They committed their efforts to improve quality of life for all of the people of Pittsburgh by restoring the park system to excellence. Adapting an innovative public/private partnership model, in 2001 the Parks Conservancy and the city jointly published Pittsburgh's *Regional Parks Master Plan: A New Ethic of Stewardship* as the blueprint for parks restoration. In 2011, this master plan was updated to accommodate changing circumstances and a broadening scope of work.

Today, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is a national leader in parks planning, restoration, management, and maintenance. The organization fulfills its mission through: revitalizing historic landscapes and buildings; conserving and creating public artworks; restoring natural areas; expanding environmental education and volunteer programs, and managing and programming the Frick Environmental Center, Schenley Plaza, and Schenley Park Café and Visitor Center. The Parks Conservancy was originally focused on the city's four historic regional parks, but public recognition of the organization's capabilities have led to requests from neighborhood groups, development organizations, and elected officials for assistance in other city, community, and neighborhood parks.

For over two decades, the Parks Conservancy has been promoting awareness of the important role parks play in enhancing quality of life for all. Regular park use and access to nature improves the health and sense of well-being of urban residents. Well-maintained parks increase property values, attract new investment, and connect people and places within urban environments. Additionally, parks have wide-ranging environmental benefits—including stormwater management, improving air and water quality, and limiting the impact of the urban heat island. They also provide living classrooms where students make inspired and lasting connections to nature and gain an understanding of the fragility of Earth's ecosystems. These experiences help develop scientifically literate adults prepared to make informed decisions about environmental policy and conservation.

Position: Revealing Pittsburgh's Community Parks

The City of Pittsburgh has a wealth of parks, nearly 170 in all. Twenty-one of these parks are designated "Community Parks." Community parks occupy the middle ground between the larger, 200-acre plus "regional parks," such as Emerald View, Frick, Highland, Riverview, and Schenley, and the smaller

“neighborhood parks” with more limited facilities that serve residents close to home. A broader and deeper understanding of the history of Pittsburgh’s community parks would benefit the Parks Conservancy’s and the public’s understanding of their significant contributions to civic life and to the people who have grown up in and around these anchors of community life.

Community Parks serve multiple neighborhoods and their special facilities -- which may include sports fields, indoor and outdoor pools, recreation centers, and picnic shelters -- serve a diverse group of users. Community parks account for 465 acres of park land in the city. They range in size from Mellon Square, the smallest but an icon of mid-century design in the heart of the city’s downtown district, to Arsenal Park in Lawrenceville, home to the largest civilian disaster of the Civil War, and the secluded South Side Park, where tree-lined trails wind upward from Carson Street to yield some of the best views of the city.

Revealing Pittsburgh’s community parks is an historical research project. Primary sources are historical records maintained by the City, local historical societies, and community associations, as well as interviews with neighborhood historians and long-time residents and park users who grew up in close proximity to the park. These park histories will unite anecdotal accounts and the historic record to provide provocative and revealing profiles of some of the city’s best and least known community parks.

The Public Humanities Fellow will:

- Work with the Parks Conservancy’s Parks Curator to determine which parks to research.
- Research and draft six to twelve brief community park histories.
- Identify historic photographs, drawings, and documents to accompany the narratives. Secure reproduction rights where possible.
- Interview local historians and community residents who can provide undocumented and anecdotal histories of the park.
- Assist Parks Curator in drafting content for interpretive signs.
- Histories and photographs may be published in part or in their entirety on the Parks Conservancy’s blog, website, newsletter, and other publications. The author will be fully credited.

Desired Qualifications

- Ability to work independently and in collaboration with PPC staff.
- Ability to develop an effective work plan, organize details, set priorities, and meet deadlines.
- Excellent interpersonal and research skills.
- Experience in or familiarity with historical research techniques.
- Superior writing skills.
- Familiarity with graphic design.
- Ability to travel within Pittsburgh to access historical archives and conduct one-on-one interviews with community members.

Position 9

LOCATION: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

DATES: May 14-August 3 [This is a 12-week position]

Organization Description

Mission

The mission of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is to improve quality of life for all of the people of Pittsburgh by restoring the park system to excellence in partnership with government and the community. Projects and programs are conducted with respect for the environment, historic design, and the diverse needs of the region.

History

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy was formed in 1996 when a group of concerned citizens joined forces to address the deteriorated state of city parks. They committed their efforts to improve quality of life for all of the people of Pittsburgh by restoring the park system to excellence. Adapting an innovative public/private partnership model, in 2001 the Parks Conservancy and the city jointly published Pittsburgh's *Regional Parks Master Plan: A New Ethic of Stewardship* as the blueprint for parks restoration. In 2011, this master plan was updated to accommodate changing circumstances and a broadening scope of work.

Today, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is a national leader in parks planning, restoration, management, and maintenance. The organization fulfills its mission through: revitalizing historic landscapes and buildings; conserving and creating public artworks; restoring natural areas; expanding environmental education and volunteer programs, and managing and programming the Frick Environmental Center, Schenley Plaza, and Schenley Park Café and Visitor Center. The Parks Conservancy was originally focused on the city's four historic regional parks, but public recognition of the organization's capabilities have led to requests from neighborhood groups, development organizations, and elected officials for assistance in other city, community, and neighborhood parks.

For over two decades, the Parks Conservancy has been promoting awareness of the important role parks play in enhancing quality of life for all. Regular park use and access to nature improves the health and sense of well-being of urban residents. Well-maintained parks increase property values, attract new investment, and connect people and places within urban environments. Additionally, parks have wide-ranging environmental benefits—including stormwater management, improving air and water quality, and limiting the impact of the urban heat island. They also provide living classrooms where students make inspired and lasting connections to nature and gain an understanding of the fragility of Earth's ecosystems. These experiences help develop scientifically literate adults prepared to make informed decisions about environmental policy and conservation.

Position: The Story of Schenley Park: Cultural Inspiration for Generations

Situated in the heart of Oakland, Schenley Park has come to be Pittsburgh's civic park. Created in 1889 with land donated by heiress Mary Schenley, the park now contains 456 acres of trails, woods, and

attractions. A daily destination for university students, business-people, and outdoor enthusiasts, the park also hosts major annual events such as the Vintage Grand Prix and the Pittsburgh Race for the Cure.

Visitors to Schenley Park can spend a morning at the remarkable Phipps Conservatory, enjoy lunch and a concert at the Schenley Park Café and Visitor Center, relax on Flagstaff Hill, play a round at the Bob O'Connor Golf Course, head to the Schenley Oval Sportsplex for ice skating or summer sports, or take a dip in the swimming pool. And of course, the trails offer a refreshing and convenient escape from the city.

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy restored the Schenley Park Café and Visitor Center in 2001 and operates the space today with event and culinary partners, Eat'n Park Hospitality Group. In 2005, the Parks Conservancy worked with City of Pittsburgh crews to rehabilitate the Phipps Run stream channel that stretches from behind the Visitor Center down to Panther Hollow Lake. Restoration of the Panther Hollow Watershed is continuous, with the ultimate goal of restoring Panther Hollow Lake to a water quality that will once again allow for recreational use.

But the story of how Mary Schenley came to make her remarkable donation; how the park grew and changed from there forward; and how the civic institutions in and around Schenley Park have grown and impacted so many is a story that has not yet been, but should be, told.

The Public Humanities Fellow will:

- Aid in formative research of telling the story of Schenley Park and how it has inspired creativity in the arts and Pittsburgh's culture.
- Identify appropriate illustrations and obtain permissions to reproduce. Information compiled will contribute to an eventual book, with appropriate credit.
- Work closely with Parks Curator Susan Rademacher, author, in telling the story of how culture has grown up around the park.

Desired Qualifications

- Ability to work independently and in collaboration with PPC staff.
- Ability to develop an effective work plan, organize details, set priorities, and meet deadlines.
- Excellent interpersonal and research skills.
- Experience in or familiarity with historical research techniques.
- Superior writing skills.