

COmmunity Centered Collections

Invitation for the COmmunity Centered Collections Fellowship

Applications Review Begins Feb 1, 2022 and will continue until positions are filled

History Colorado is seeking applications for fellows to join the COmmunity Centered Collections (CCC) Project. This is a three-year project that brings together professional archivists and community members to co-develop methods to interpret, preserve, and share local histories. The goal of the CCC project is to prioritize the interest of communities in interpreting, preserving, and making accessible their local histories on their own terms through the collaborative creation of community collections. In addition, this project will develop resources to guide other archives and communities seeking to do the same. Fellowship period is from March 2022-August 2024.

We invite **students, community organizers, community archivists and community members engaged in the local history** to collaborate with History Colorado's staff in the implementation of this meaningful work in the following southern Colorado communities:

- Antonito (in partnership with Antonito Together)
- San Luis (in partnership with Adelante San Luis)
- Avondale (in partnership with Avondale Resident Team)

We are seeking **one fellow per community**. As part of project activities, the fellow will:

1. Collaborate with History Colorado and our community partners in each community to facilitate community-led exploration and interpretation of the history of the community.
2. Conduct archival research
3. Support the development of resources that can guide libraries and archives on how to manage community collections in a culturally responsive and community-driven manner.
4. Receive basic training in archival methods and community-engagement.
5. Participate in opportunities for collaborative learning with the project team and community members.

COmmunity Centered Collections is a joint effort between History Colorado's [Museum of Memory](#) and the Curatorial Services & Collections Access Division, with support from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS). To learn more about the CCC project visit:

Supported by funding from IMLS, award # PB-274243-20.

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<https://sites.google.com/state.co.us/hc-impls-community-collections>

Fellowship Award Perks:

- Stipend of \$21,600 total for the **full term** of the appointment (March 2022-August 2024). The fellowship stipend is not salary or compensation. The stipend is an award meant to support study, research and expenses during the tenure of the appointment. The stipend will be issued in installments.
- Affiliation to History Colorado and access to its workspaces and resources.
- Mentorship and training from History Colorado's Staff.
- Funding for conference participation, professional development, training, and networking opportunities—as identified by the Project Director in conversation with the fellow.
- Travel stipend for Denver-based training, research and work at History Colorado's archives—as identified by the Project Director and according to project needs.

Fellowship Expectations:

- Spend an **average of 12 hours** a week engaged in project activities virtually or in person —e.g. Training, planning meetings, collaboration, community-based work, research and writing.
- Facilitate and document project activities in the community (e.g. community outreach and engagement, workshops, evaluation) in collaboration with History Colorado staff and project partners.
- Serve as the primary liaison for the project with community partners and History Colorado, making connections with key community stakeholders.
- Research, store, and process oral histories, photographs, and archival items and assuring proper relevant documentation is in place.
- Attend institution led training for community work procedures, collections work, and project objectives.
- Participate in regular check-ins with the project team and the Project Director.
- Work with History Colorado staff to create, augment, and implement methodologies and tools for community collections work following protocols and practices for utilizing institution equipment.
- Be available for public outreach to share project activities
- Write about project activities for History Colorado publications.
- Periodic travel to the assigned project location and to History Colorado museums.

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Fellowship Requirements:

- **Contextual knowledge of and connection to the community where proposed project activities will take place (Antonito, San Luis or Avondale).**
- A passion for community-engaged work and interest to prioritize the motivations and interest of the community in the documentation and sharing of their history.
- Creative, self-motivated, and intellectually curious individual committed to interpret, preserve, and make accessible their community's historical past
- Good written and verbal communication and cooperation skills with colleagues and community members
- Familiarity with G Suite (e.g. Google Drive, Docs, Sheets, Forms), Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Computer equipment and internet access
- Analytical and research skills to collect and evaluate data
- Self-starter with excellent organizational skills, attention to detail, and the flexibility to work with diverse stakeholders
- Ability to adapt strengths and experience to continue, change, or make new procedures
- Ability to travel independently to project activity sites.
- Pass a background check
- Optional: Bilingual (Spanish/English)
- Optional: Educational background in Archives, Library and Information Science, History, Museum Studies, Anthropology, Sociology or other related degree programs.

How to Apply:

Application review begins: February 1, 2022 (the position is open until filled)

Please submit the following materials by email to Project Director María Islas-López at maria.islaslopez@state.co.us:

- A cover letter addressing the applicant's interest in the COmmunity Centered Collections fellowship. Applicants should provide the following information in the letter:
 - How the COmmunity Centered Collections project intersects with the applicant's work, expertise, experience or background. Please specify the community of interest (Antonito, San Luis or Avondale).
 - Elaborate on the applicant's readiness to support project implementation in the community of choice.
 - Applicant's thoughts on the potential significance of the COmmunity Centered Collections project for the community of interest.

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- A CV or resume, including two references with contact details
- Supplementary question:
 - As a response to the national protests regarding systemic injustice, History Colorado staff came together during the months of July and August to discuss as an institutional community the ways in which History Colorado can advance the work of anti-racism. These Grounding Virtues are the result of our collective process. Please click here to learn more:

https://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2020/Anti-Racism_Grounding_Virtues.pdf

Question:

How have these guiding principles shown up in your previous work and /or how would you contribute to these virtues in your position at History Colorado?

History Colorado is committed to anti-racism practices across its institution and outlined in [these grounding virtues](#). As such, we encourage members of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) LGBTQ+ and persons with disabilities communities to apply for this fellowship.

Fellowship Process and Estimated Timeline:

- January 17, 2022: Application opens
- February-April 2022- Review of applications and recruitment
- April 2022: Onboarding and training of selected fellows (could include a two-day visit to History Colorado Center in Denver)
- Spring–Summer 2022: Archival research and community engagement
- Fall 2022-Summer 2023: Community Collection: Community-based & archiving efforts.
- Fall 2023-Summer 2024: Access/Dissemination & Toolkit Development.
- August 31, 2024: Fellowship ends

**To get more information on the project, contact María Islas-López, Project Director:
maria.islaslopez@state.co.us**

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