

PENNSYLVANIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

Project Summary

The Haverford humanities student would serve as Development Intern, supporting communications, government relations, fundraising, and new program development. Activities would include research in PHC files and communication with staff and individuals across Pennsylvania, in support of PHC relationships with (1) leaders in public humanities, (2) funders and allies, and (3) program producers.

Organization Mission and Governance

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council, a nonprofit organization, inspires individuals to enjoy and share a life of learning enriched by human experience across time and around the world. Through programs and partnerships, PHC fosters the sharing of stories and ideas – to increase understanding and a large vision of human life, community, and possibility.

The PHC represents Pennsylvania in the Federal-State Partnership of the National Endowment for the Humanities, which fosters public humanities programs in each state and territory of the United States. At present, the PHC is governed by eighteen volunteer members and has a staff of seven full-time and five part-time employees. Please visit the website www.pahumanities.org.

The Set of Projects

The Haverford intern would work closely with staff as PHC:

- Analyzes recent successes and shortcomings;
- Identifies and communicates with potential program producers in various regions of the state;
- Explores new social media, making use of a new program partnership with Pennsylvania Cable Network and established collaboration with Commonwealth Libraries and other funders.

The intern would support staff members by:

- Researching past program producers and collaborations, spanning PHC grants, resource programs, and special projects;
- Phoning, emailing, and writing to individuals developing imaginative humanities projects for public libraries, historical sites and museums, arts venues, and community organizations;
- Supporting program development and marketing for seasons #3& 4 of the new television series *Humanities on the Road*, including research and selection of speakers and marketing to potential sites across the state.

Special Skills

The intern will exercise skills in communications (oral and written), both internally with PHC staff and externally with PHC program personnel and allies; and analysis, particularly by research into past PHC activities. The assignments would appeal to a humanities major who enjoys being a generalist, interested in many different fields of knowledge -- including, among others, history and literature. They would appeal, also, to a student interested in current U.S. culture and politics, during a new Governor's administration in Pennsylvania and a new U.S. Congress, reviving debates about American values, diversity, and governmental funding for the arts and humanities, reflecting "the culture wars" from the 1960s to the present.

Challenges and Rewards

The challenge would come from immersion into a fast-paced office, staffed by highly skilled personnel, who are simultaneously moving new programming forward, reflecting on recent achievements, and drafting a strategic plan for 2012-2014. The reward will be an understanding of how a state humanities council -- in a large, diverse state -- functions through programs and partnerships. Colleagues would include three individuals in their twenties who are recent graduates from such institutions as Drexel University, Franklin and Marshall College, and Temple University; and experienced staff with extensive knowledge of public cultural work from the 1980s to the present.

Work Environment and Supervision

The work will take place at the PHC office, 325 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, in the heart of the city's historic district, from 9:00 to 5:00, Monday through Friday. Flexibility in daily work hours can be accommodated; however, punctuality and a professional attitude are essential. The office is close to train stations at 8th & Market and 5th & Market. There is no requirement to work evenings or weekends. Travel, if any, will be minimal -- perhaps to Harrisburg. Overall supervision will be provided by Executive Director Joseph J. Kelly or Assistant Director Laurie Zierer; daily tasks will be overseen by the employees whose work is to be supported.

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