

Rare Book School Awards 15 Fellowships for Diversity, Inclusion & Cultural Heritage

Fellowship program seeks to enhance understandings of multicultural collections among professionals, local community members, and broader publics

Charlottesville, VA, April 2020—Rare Book School (RBS) at the University of Virginia has selected an inaugural cohort of 15 fellows to join the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship for Diversity, Inclusion & Cultural Heritage (RBS-Mellon CH Fellowship). Fellows will participate in a three-year program that includes an orientation, Rare Book School coursework, community symposia, and other activities relating to multicultural collections and trainings.

This program builds on the success of earlier RBS fellowship initiatives, including the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship for Scholars in Critical Bibliography, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)-RBS Fellowships for Early-Career Librarians, and the RBS-RBMS Diversity Fellowship Program. The RBS-Mellon CH Fellowship has been formed to: develop skills for documenting and interpreting visual and textual materials in special collections and archives; raise awareness within professional communities about the significance of inclusive, multicultural collections, including their promotion, development, and stewardship; build connections with diverse communities and publics through strategic programming, outreach, and advocacy; and advance careers by establishing new pathways and skills for professional growth.

The 15 RBS-Mellon CH Fellows were chosen from a highly competitive field of more than 60 applicants by a selection committee comprising leading cultural heritage professionals. The selected fellows work closely with a broad spectrum of multicultural collections, ranging from Cuban heritage collections and Black diaspora archives, to Los Angeles community-centered archives to HBCU library collections, and from post-custodial human rights archives representing Latin America and Africa to digital collections of cultural heritage items from tribal archives, libraries, and museums. Geographically, the fellows represent states across the country from coast to coast (and Hawaii).

“We very much look forward to welcoming this remarkably accomplished group of Cultural Heritage Fellows to Rare Book School, where we hope they will find much to learn and much to contribute,” said RBS Executive Director Michael F. Suarez, S.J. “We are profoundly thankful to The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their support of the diversity initiative and its mission.”

More information about the Andrew W. Mellon Diversity, Inclusion & Cultural Heritage is available at: <https://rarebookschool.org/admissions-awards/fellowships/mellon-diversity/>.

About Rare Book School (RBS)

Rare Book School provides continuing-education opportunities for students from all disciplines and skill levels to study the history of written, printed, and digital materials with leading scholars and professionals in the fields of bibliography, librarianship, book history, manuscript studies, and the digital humanities. Founded at Columbia University in 1983, RBS moved to its present home at the University of Virginia in 1992. RBS is a not-for-profit educational organization associated with the University of Virginia.

More information about RBS is available on its website: <http://www.rarebookschool.org>.

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