

**WSU David G. Pollart Center for Arts and Humanities
Fellowship Program - Request for Proposals
Spring 2026**

Description

In recognition of the Arts and Humanities enterprise at WSU, the David G. Pollart Center for Arts and Humanities is pleased to announce the fellowship program for 2026. The WSU Strategic Plan emphasizes the University’s commitment to enhancing research, scholarship, and creativity at WSU, including the expansion of research and creative work typically associated with these disciplines. This funding opportunity supports projects that focus on faculty professional goals and development and align with one or more of the Center’s goals, which are to:

- Expand WSU’s capacity for foundational research in the arts and humanities;
- Nurture cross- and interdisciplinary connection and collaboration;
- Increase the public visibility and outreach of WSU arts and humanities faculty;
- Advance WSU’s commitment to access, opportunity, and community engagement; and
- Catalyze WSU’s engagement with emergent fields of humanistic and artistic knowledge.

The Pollart Center welcomes proposals for arts- and humanities-based research and creative activities from all WSU faculty, as described below. Community engagement projects as well as proposals that include graduate or undergraduate students in the research, development, and/or execution of a fellowship project are encouraged.

Eligibility

Fellowship eligibility is determined by the arts and humanities content or focus of the proposed project. All tenured, tenure-track, career-track, and full-time instructional faculty at all WSU campuses are eligible for a Pollart Center Fellowship. Funding is contingent upon WSU employment or affiliation for the year subsequent to the grant. Previous fellowship recipients are asked to refrain from applying for further Pollart Center funding for three years after their award end date. Recipients from prior years must have submitted a final project report to be considered for subsequent funding.

Timeline

April 7, 2026	Proposals submission deadline
May 7, 2026	Funding decisions announced
July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027	Fellowship Award period
July 31, 2027	Final Project Report due

Additional Details

- Awards will be given for research, exhibitions, performances, or other major scholarly efforts that support Pollart Center goals as described above.
- Projects may be collaborative, multi- or inter-disciplinary, or single investigator projects.
- Applicants may request up to \$6000 in direct project costs. Projects with smaller budgets are welcome and equally competitive.

- Overhead or facilities/administrative costs do not apply.

Application Instructions

- Full proposal deadline is **April 7, 2026**.
- Fill out the online application at <https://cas.wsu.edu/gfs/form-cah-fellowship-application/> including budget and narrative (5 pg max), and cv (2 pg max) attachments.
- **Please consult your unit pre-award Research Administrator when developing the project budget. Improper budgets and/or justifications will be downgraded.**
 - Budget requests must include personnel benefit costs if faculty, student, or staff salary is requested.
 - The budget item justification should explain the cost basis and/or calculation for the amount requested
- The project description is limited to no more than five pages, excluding references, using a standard font type and size (11 or 12 pt) with 1” margins.
- The project description should explicitly:
 - Identify PI and team members (if applicable), and qualifications to conduct and complete the project. Include the department and rank for each participant.
 - Employ specific and jargon-free language.
 - Define project goals and objectives.
 - Convey the project clearly: what it is, why it should be pursued, how it will be done.
 - Explain the significance of the project to the PI’s discipline and potential contribution to arts and humanities at WSU;
 - Provide a timeline of work and dissemination plan; and
 - Identify outcomes, including future directions or impacts of project.

The narrative should not include detailed discussion of the budget.

- CVs are limited to two pages, highlighting the applicant’s qualifications for successful completion of the proposed project.
- An additional attachment of supporting material(s) (2 pg max) may be uploaded. These pages may include, but are not limited to, photographs, maps, music scores, graphs or charts, or other figures.
- Proposals requesting course release or buyout must include a signed and dated letter from PI’s department chair or other appropriate unit authority that states as follows: *“I have discussed [PI]’s request for a course release/buyout as proposed in [his/her/their] Pollart Center Fellowship 2026-2027 application and have agreed to it should the proposal be funded.”*

Evaluation Criteria

All proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria and rating scale adapted from the National Endowment for the Humanities standards:

1. *the creative or intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to arts or humanities scholars, general audiences, and/or WSU;*
2. *the quality or promise of quality of the applicant as an interpreter of the humanities or as an artist;*

3. *the quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the applicant's clarity of expression;*
4. *the feasibility of the proposed plan of work, including, when appropriate, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans; and*
5. *the likelihood that the applicant will complete the project.*

Award Terms and Conditions

- Awardees are required to disseminate their work to audiences beyond their academic discipline.
 - All awardees will present their work at the Faculty Showcase during the funded year or the immediate year following the project end date.
 - Fellows on the Pullman campus will also present their work as part of the Neill Public Library Lecture Series (arranged by the Pollart Center). Fellows on other campuses will arrange for an alternate presentation with the approval of the Pollart Center directors.
- Awardees will attend monthly in-person or virtual meetings during the academic year of the award period. (August 2026-May 2027). These discussions will focus on sharing work-in-progress.
- The award period of performance will begin no earlier than July 1, 2026 and end on or before June 30, 2027. Funds must be used within fiscal year 2027. Time extensions are not possible and will not be granted.
- Awards are not transferable. If the PI leaves the university prior to the completion of the grant, all remaining funds are to be returned to the Pollart Center for Arts and Humanities.
- Any unencumbered funds remaining after the grant's approved period of performance will be returned to the Pollart Center.
- Acknowledgement of support from the WSU Pollart Center for Arts and Humanities Fellowship should be included in any published work, presentation, or other product directly resulting from this award.
- Awardees will share relevant project-related media with the Pollart Center.
- Awardees must provide a final report to the Pollart Center for Arts and Humanities, following the final report template. The report is due one month after the end of the grant period of performance and should detail activities, results, and accomplishments stemming from the award, including but not limited to publications, presentations, exhibitions, media coverage, sales or marketing, projects, papers, proposals/awards, or other products attributed to support by the WSU Pollart Center Fellowship.

Questions

Please email art.humanities@wsu.edu using "Fellowship 2026" in the subject line, with any questions. Applicants may also consult with Becky James, CAS Assistant Director of Research Development, in preparing their applications (elizabeth.james@wsu.edu).