



2018 Scholarship Program Guidelines

Conference Information

Stronger Together: New Museum Solutions

September 11-15th, 2018

Billings Montana

Hotel: Billings Hotel and Convention Center

Scholarship Application Deadline: June 8, 2018
Electronic submissions only

Background

The Scholarship Program, sponsored by the Mountain-Plains Museums Association (MPMA), state associations, industry partners, private donors, and annual auction proceeds, provides financial assistance to those studying and/or working in MPMA's 10-state region so that they may attend the annual conference. MPMA seeks scholarship candidates who will benefit from attendance at the MPMA conference but may not have the necessary financial means to attend.

Individuals who have received a scholarship in the past are not eligible to apply for a scholarship in the same application area.

Eligibility and Categories

You must be an individual member of MPMA or work at a member institution to apply

- Emerging Professional: An individual with less than 3 years in the museum profession.
- Mid-career Professional: An individual who has worked 3-10 years in the museum profession.
- Student: A graduate student (or an undergraduate student of exceptional quality and initiative) currently enrolled in Art, Art History, Anthropology, Museum Studies, History or the equivalent.

Scholarships to be awarded in 2018

All scholarships include a \$400 cash award plus conference registration

Ten (10) General MPMA scholarships

One (1) Association of South Dakota Museums scholarship (ASDM)

Two (2) Dakin scholarships

One (1) RC-MPMA/ANR Transport scholarship

One (1) Ship Art-Terry Dowd LLC scholarship

Registration & Scholarship Payment

Scholarship recipients will receive a registration code from the Scholarship Chair to use for their registration. While registration for the scholarship winners is free, recipients must register for the conference online by July 6th or the scholarship award will be voided. MPMA will mail the first half of the payment (\$200.00) to the recipient on August 1st, 2018. The second half (\$200.00) will be handed out at the Scholarship meeting at the beginning of the conference. Recipients MUST be at this meeting to receive the check. MPMA is the fiscal agent for all participating scholarship partners.

Scholarship funds must be applied towards items and events that relate to attending the 2018 MPMA Conference and can include housing, travel, workshops and conference events. Recipients are expected to register for the conference and provide payment for any events outside of the complimentary ones provided as part of the scholarship before they receive the first half of their scholarship disbursement.

The scholarship may not cover all conference expenses. Applicants should seek additional financial assistance from other sources to cover all expenses. All scholarship recipients will receive complimentary registration which covers basic registration only and a ticket to the Awards Banquet. Roommates may be available to share the cost of a hotel room; please contact MPMA to ask for assistance on this.

All Scholarship Recipients agree to the following:

1. Must be an individual member of MPMA or your institution must be an institutional member. If you are not a member, you can join at [here](#).
2. Attend the entire conference, actively attending sessions in the morning and afternoon.
3. Attend the General Session and Awards Banquet (the cost of the Awards Banquet is included in your complimentary registration) and be recognized as a scholarship recipient at these events.
4. Sign up for and attend at least two additional events or workshops (not including the General Session and Awards Banquet which are required events).
5. Agree to use a social media platform during the conference to share your experience in sessions, networking, events and museum visits in real-time with your peers, friends and followers. The platform used will be determined by the scholarship recipients with approval from the scholarship chair. If you do not currently use social media, the option to write a conference review for upcoming MPMA newsletters is an option if discussed with the scholarship chair in advance.
6. Assist with taking tickets for events, tours, and workshops, or in other ways at events (with lights or system set up) to be assigned by the scholarship chair.
7. Be matched with a mentor during the conference and attend the Scholarship Meeting and the Mentor/Mentee Gathering on Wednesday, September 12th.
8. Seek opportunities to become more involved with MPMA through committee work, conference sessions and advocacy.

Additional Scholarship Specific Requirements:

1. The **RC-MPMA / ANR Transport Scholarship** requirements: applicants must be current paid members of the RC-MPMA who work with museum collections. Current elected RC-MPMA officers are not eligible to apply. The recipient will be required to attend the RC-MPMA business meeting and attend the Helping Hands Event during the conference if schedule permits. The recipient will also be required to write reviews of two sessions they attended to be published in the RC-MPMA newsletter.
2. The **RC-MPMA / Ship Art-Terry Dowd LLC Scholarship** requirements: applicants must be current paid members of the RC-MPMA who work with museum collections and have been in the field for at least six years. Current elected RC-MPMA officers are not eligible to apply. The recipient will be required to attend the RC-MPMA business meeting and attend the Helping Hands Event during the conference if schedule permits. The recipient will also be required to write reviews of two sessions they attended to be published in the RC-MPMA newsletter.
3. The **Dakin Scholarship** is for Native American students currently in a museum training program or employees of a museum owned and operated by a tribe.
4. The **Association of South Dakota Museums Scholarships** requires the recipient reside in South Dakota and be a current member of ASDM.

How to Apply

Complete the online portion of the application here: [MPMA Online Scholarship Application](#).

After you have completed the online portion, email the additional supporting materials listed below. **Applications must be completed AND support materials emailed by 5:00 pm MST on June 8, 2018.** The Scholarship Chair will confirm the receipt of the materials. **If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact the Scholarship Chair before June 8, 2018.** Mailed, faxed, incomplete or late applications will not be considered. (Note: I will be in the Netherlands for most of May, if I do not confirm that I have received your materials within 72 hours, please send an email ASAP. I will have internet access.)

To finalize your application, you **MUST** email the following three documents to pfinkle@caspercollege.edu in PDF format. **Please include your first and last name in the subject of the email!** You may only apply for one 2018 scholarship.

1. Professional Resume: In resume format, detail your involvement with museums and list all museum activities. Include both volunteer activities and paid employment. (Do not send a narrative or “description”. Resumes only.) Send as a PDF titled: Resume, Last Name, First Name.

2. Essay: Write a succinct, brief (no more than 1-page) essay describing what attending this conference will do for you professionally, whether you are a student, volunteer or paid museum professional. Use examples of how the sessions and this year’s theme will be useful to you. (This essay should convey the positive outcomes you feel you will received through conference attendance. Please do not use this essay to explain financial or personal difficulties. You only have one page, so use it wisely!) Send as a PDF titled: Museum Essay- your last name,

your first name.

3. References: Have one letter of recommendation emailed to the scholarship chair. This letter should be in the form of a PDF attachment titled: Recommendation Letter- your last name, your first name. This can be from a supervisor, professor or someone already in the museum field. Multiple letters are not required and only the first one received will be considered.

NOTE: If your application does not include all of the items above, your application will not be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee. Likewise, please take careful note of the request for both format and title of your support materials. The scholarship process is incredibly competitive and your failure to follow directions will remove your application from consideration.

Important Dates:

- April 9, 2018 Application process opens
- June 8, 2018 Application process closes
- June 25, 2018 Applicants notified of selection
- July 6, 2018 Applicants must submit acceptance notification and complete online registration

Checklist:

Completed online application

Résumé

One-page essay

Letter of recommendation

Scholarships in Brief:

- All recipients will receive \$400, payable to them by two separate check payments, towards their conference expenses (airfare, hotel, conference events, etc).
- All recipients will receive a complimentary basic registration for the conference which will include a ticket to the Awards Banquet.
- All recipients must comply with the requirements outlined in the application form.
- All recipients must agree to register and pay for any events outside of those provided by the scholarship in advance of receiving their scholarship funds.

Thank you for completing the online portion of the Mountain-Plains Museum Association Scholarship Application. **If you have any questions, please address them to Patti Wood Finkle, MPMA Scholarship Chair at pfinkle@caspercollege.edu**