



## 2021 Scholarship Program Guidelines

### Conference Information

*Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges*

October 5-8, 2021

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Hotel: Best Western Ramkota

**Scholarship Application Deadline: June 23, 2021**  
**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. The scholarship committee seeks candidates who will benefit from attendance at the 2021 joint 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

- Emerging Professional: An individual with less than 5 years in the museum profession.
- Mid-career Professional: An individual who has worked 5-20 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 2021

All scholarships include a \$400 cash award, conference registration, and a complimentary one-year basic or student MPMA membership. New Mexico residents will also receive a one-year basic or student complimentary NMAM membership.

- Six (6) General MPMA scholarships
- One (1) Art Wolf Memorial Student scholarship
- Three (3) Dakin scholarships
- Two (2) 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 Committee Chair to use for their registration. While registration for the scholarship winners is free, recipients must register for the conference online by July 21st or the scholarship award will be voided. Scholarship awardees will be mailed the first half of the payment (\$200.00) via check on August 1, 2021. 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 other participating scholarship partners.

Scholarship funds must be applied towards items and events that relate to attending the 2021 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 complementary 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. Attend the entire conference, actively attending sessions in the morning and afternoon.
2. 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.
3. Sign up for and attend at least two additional events or workshops (not including the General Session and Awards Banquet which are required events).
4. 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. If you do not currently use social media, the option to write a conference review for upcoming MPMA newsletter is an option if discussed with the scholarship chair in advance.
5. Assist with taking tickets for events, tours, and workshops, or in other ways at events to be assigned by the scholarship chair.
6. Be matched with a mentor during the conference and attend the Scholarship Meeting and the Mentor/Mentee Gathering on October 5.
7. 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. The Terry Dowd Scholarship is open to any RC-MPMA member who has not had the scholarship in the last five (5) years, and is not currently serving an elected board position (appointed positions, like state representatives, are still eligible). 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. **Art Wolf Memorial Student Scholarship** is available to 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.

## How to Apply

Complete the online portion of the application here: [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 MDT on June 23, 2021.** The Scholarship Chair will confirm the receipt of the materials. **If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact the Scholarship Chair before June 23, 2021.** Mailed, faxed, incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

To finalize your application, you **MUST** email the following three documents to [pfinkle@caspercollege.edu](mailto: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 2021 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 receive 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:**

- March 19, 2021 Application process opens
- June 23, 2021 Application process closes
- July 7, 2021 Applicants notified of selection
- July 21, 2021 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 will receive a one-year complimentary basic or student MPMA membership.
- 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](mailto:pfinkle@caspercollege.edu)**