Call for 2016-17 Graduate Public Scholar Program Applications

The Curb Center invites proposals from graduate students for the 2016-17 Public Scholar Program. As part of our mission to advance the standing of art and culture in the minds of policymakers as well as generate innovative approaches to real-world problems, the Curb Public Scholars program is a research and collaboration opportunity designed to support faculty and graduate students as they put their research in arts, culture, and policy into practice.

The program facilitates initiatives that explore creative ways to implement research findings, develop evidence-based public policies, and transform academic work into publicly available resources that increase access to cultural life. The Curb Center’s Public Scholars engage in research with the potential to make an impact not only in academia but also in the public sphere.

Public Scholars receive grants up to $2000 in research funds, shared office space in the Curb Center, mentorship from faculty public scholars and Curb faculty, and support for public sharing of the final product.

Graduate students may propose projects that connect an arts or cultural issue, related to either a dissertation nearing completion or existing research, to a public audience. Recipients of these grants will caucus with local and national leaders as well as fellow scholars regularly throughout the academic year; develop and deliver materials that advance understanding, application, or the impact the student’s research on a segment of community life; and reflect on the outcomes of that development and delivery in a final symposium.

Because public policies reflect the values and aspirations of a city, a community, or a national culture, we must increase the availability of rigorous academic scholarship and develop creative ways to implement the findings of that scholarship.

Curb’s Public Scholars program engages arts and culture leaders in dialogue around specific issues to generate research questions and methodologies that inform summaries and reports that decision makers find useful.
Curb Center Public Scholars Program Factsheet

Recent examples of projects

- Infographic for educators and policy makers detailing neurological effects of music on brains of school-aged children
- One-sheet for educators and school board members detailing outcomes of spoken word curriculum in high school classrooms
- Design and delivery of a board game to learn how Sri Lankan rice farmers assess risks and make crop choices so policymakers can transform agricultural programs
- Public service video using time-lapse animation to show effects of tomb robbing and looting on a Peruvian excavation site
- Digital map detailing the origins, journeys, and spatial relations of storytellers included in Nashville Public Library's “Faces of Nashville” story corps project

Benefits of the Curb Public Scholar cadre:

- Regular interdisciplinary conversation among fellow Vanderbilt researchers
- Facilitated exposure to local and national practitioners leading social change via arts, culture, and the creation & sharing of information
- Shared office space with Curb Center faculty fellows, campus and community catalysts, and Curb staff
- Training for and access to Curb Center resources including large format printer, media lab, fabric lab, and sound recording studio

Proposals should be submitted by graduate students engaged in research that promises to illuminate challenges or opportunities that face any cultural field, including (but not limited to) music, publishing, the graphic arts, film, television, theater, literature, the entertainment industry, or digital media. Policy concerns may involve race, class, gender, social or political concerns, economic issues, legal questions, government regulation, copyright, urban planning and development, public humanities and heritage preservation, indigenous cultures, international trade and diplomacy, distribution and access, artistic careers, nonprofits, new media, medicine and the arts, creativity and well-being, arts entrepreneurs, public support of the arts, arts education, and more.

About the Award

Recipients will receive up to $2000 in research funds, shared office space in the Curb Center, mentorship from faculty public scholars and Curb faculty, and support for public sharing of the final product.

“Doing the Curb Center project took me out of my little graduate bubble for a second and reemphasized that this is what I care about to a large degree—it’s that intersection of science and society that I’m really passionate about and that will be something that will stay with me all my life.”

—Thushara Gunda, Ph.D. candidate, Environmental Engineering
Award Requirements
All fellows will be expected to:

- Attend the second annual Public Scholars Symposium on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 1:00-4:30 (reception follows) at the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy
- Be in residence during the 2016-17 academic year
- Participate in regular forums (4 fall, 3 spring) with other faculty fellows and affiliated scholars including fall orientation and the spring symposium (schedule attached)
- Meet with staff at least once each semester to share information about their projects
- Present a version of their public scholarship project to a relevant audience off campus during the 2016-17 academic year
- Present results of the public scholarship project at the third annual Public Scholars Symposium in April, 2017

Application Requirements
Send the following to heather.l.rippetoe@vanderbilt.edu by noon on Thursday, March 31, 2016:

- Letter of interest detailing your Vanderbilt studies (degree program, advisor, anticipated graduation date) and addressing how participation in the program will enhance your professional development
- Curriculum Vitae
- Attached information form
- Either a 500-word essay or a 3-minute video or slide show describing your project in terms of the policy realm, including such questions as issue identification, policy/program design, budgetary politics, implementation, or policy evaluation.

Notes:
- Projects do not have to be fully conceived at this application phase. Both forum discussions and informal conversations with Curb Center community members likely will inform and guide your project's design and implementation.
- Projects may address arts/cultural policy on a local, national, or international level.
- Center faculty and staff welcome conversation during the application phase—contact Program Coordinator Heather Rippetoe at heather.l.rippetoe@vanderbilt.edu or 615-936-7981.

Review Process
- All applications will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary committee of Vanderbilt faculty and community leaders engaged in policy research and application.
- Decisions will be communicated to students by Friday, April 8, 2016.
Timeline
Mon, Feb 22  Call for Proposals distributed

Mon, Feb 22- Thu, Mar 31  Application period. Applicants are encouraged to meet with Curb Center staff to discuss proposals during this time.

Thu, Mar 31  Proposals due by noon. No proposals will be accepted after this deadline.

Fri, Apr 8  Awards announced

Wed, Apr 27  Public Scholars Symposium
1:00-4:30 pm (reception follows)
Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy at Vanderbilt
1801 Edgehill Avenue
Nashville, TN 37212

About the Curb Center
The Curb Center at Vanderbilt is a national policy center committed to research and teaching that challenges leaders to rethink the place of art and creativity in our world.
2016-17 Curb Public Scholar Schedule

All events are held at the Curb Center at Vanderbilt, 1801 Edgehill Avenue. Every effort is made to include every scholar in each event. However, this schedule is subject to change according to the availability of guest speakers.

Mon, Apr 15
2016
Acceptance materials to heather.l.rippetoe@vanderbilt.edu, including: written acceptance email/letter, signed media release, high-res head shot, bio (100-150 words)

Wed, Apr 27
2016
Second Annual Curb Public Scholar Symposium
1:00-4:30 pm (pictures at 1:00 pm, reception follows symposium’s end)

Tue, Aug 23
2016
2016-17 Curb Public Scholar Orientation
8:30-10:30 am (breakfast included)

Thu, Sep 8
2016
1st Public Scholars Forum (speaker TBD)
4:10-6:00 pm (light reception included)

Tue, Oct 11
2016
2nd Public Scholars Forum (speaker TBD)
4:10-6:00 pm (light reception included)

Thu, Nov 10
2016
3rd Public Scholars Forum (speaker TBD)
4:10-6:00 pm (light reception included)

Dec
No formal meeting: scholars will be invited to gather informally to discuss projects and are encouraged to meet with Jay and/or Elizabeth as needed

Thu, Jan 12
2017
3rd Public Scholars Forum (speaker TBD)
4:10-6:00 pm (light reception included)

Thu, Feb 16
2017
4th Public Scholars Forum (speaker TBD)
4:10-6:00 pm (light reception included)

Mar
No formal meeting: scholars will be invited to gather informally to discuss projects and are encouraged to meet with Jay and/or Elizabeth as needed

Wed, Apr 26
2017
Third Annual Public Scholars Symposium
1:00-4:30 pm (pictures at 1:00 pm, reception follows symposium’s end)
Curb Center Public Scholars Program
Information Form (2016-2017)

NAME ________________________________________________

VU ID ________________________________________________

CAMPUS ADDRESS _______________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

SUMMER ADDRESS _________________________________________

(if different from above) _______________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

PHONE ________________________________________________

E-MAIL ________________________________________________

GRADUATE PROGRAM ______________________________________

ADVISOR SIGNATURE _______________________________________

DGS SIGNATURE __________________________________________

APPLICANT SIGNATURE _____________________________________

Please return this form with your application materials.