

WGBH Educational Foundation - GBH Archives

**Institute of Museum and Library Services – Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Program**

**Funding Opportunity Number: LB21-FY21**

**Proposal: Public Broadcasting Preservation Fellowship**

**October 2, 2020**

**Statement of Broad Need:** WGBH Educational Foundation (GBH) is requesting \$245,650 to launch a continuation of the Public Broadcasting Preservation Fellowship (the Fellowship) for non-specialized Library and Information Science (LIS) graduate student programs to provide training in sound and audiovisual preservation, as well as support the stewardship of at-risk public media collections.

The sound and audiovisual records of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries are increasingly at risk. A 2014 study from AVPreserve estimated there are more than 254 million unique and valuable sound items in organizations across the United States that have not yet been digitized, not including video.<sup>1</sup> However, only four programs in the US currently offer specialized audiovisual preservation programs<sup>2</sup>, limiting the development of audiovisual preservation expertise across the country. Additionally, many community-oriented content producers, such as public media stations, lack the resources and knowledge to pursue preservation of their materials.

GBH seeks to address this problem by creating funded graduate fellowships for students to focus on the digitization and digital preservation of public media materials. In 2017, GBH received IMLS funding to launch the first round of the Public Broadcasting Preservation Fellowship (PBPf): an experimental model to provide graduate students in LIS programs at five universities with specialized training to digitize at-risk local public television and radio content. Fellows at each university were trained in the fundamentals of A/V preservation, digitized materials at their host stations, and shepherded the ingest of the digitized materials into the American Archive of Public Broadcasting (AAPB), a collaboration between GBH and the Library of Congress to coordinate a national effort to preserve and make accessible significant historical content created by public media. The Fellows and their faculty advisors then created documentation and workshops around their digitization work to support ongoing audiovisual preservation education. The University of Alabama has subsequently collaborated with the AAPB to develop a scholarship program for students interested in pursuing audiovisual training based on the PBPf model, which launched this year.

**Project Design:** GBH intends to build on the first round of the PBPf program and the Alabama Fellowship program to improve and expand the original PBPf project for the year 2021-2022. During this round of the program, GBH will continue its successful collaborations with the five original universities (UNC Chapel Hill, University of Missouri, University of Oklahoma, San Jose State University, and Clayton State University). Significant amounts of at-risk content remains to be digitized in these regions, and a second Fellowship would provide participating universities with the opportunity to assess and improve the audiovisual preservation resources and curricula developed as a result of the first Fellowship with an eye towards the possibility of following Alabama's certificate model. In addition, GBH will expand the Fellowship program to three more participating universities located in geographic proximity to stations holding at-risk and under-represented content: the University of Tennessee, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and Kent State University. GBH will

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.avpreserve.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/QuantifyingTheNeed.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> NYU's Moving Image Archiving and Preservation program, the Selznick School of Film Preservation at University of Rochester (film only), the MLIS with specialization in Media Archival Studies offered at the UCLA, and the recent University of Alabama EBSCO Scholarship Program.

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also work with university partners to build safety and flexibility into the project design, and may also utilize University of Alabama's model to provide options for remote Fellows if circumstances require.

Beginning in the late summer of 2021, LIS programs and host stations will collaborate to recruit student Fellows from among the enrolled student body. During this period, GBH will support the new host sites in the installation of digitization equipment. GBH will also collaborate with the University of Alabama to develop a virtual symposium for faculty advisors at participating universities, focused on the development of sustainable audiovisual programs at these institutions.

The Fellowships will begin with an Immersion Week to train them in the handling, preservation and digitization of sound and A/V material. Fellows will keep in touch with each other virtually through online collaboration tools, allowing for continual collaborative learning. Each Fellowship will now last two semesters (Fall 2021 through Spring 2022) allowing each Fellow to gain expertise in digital preservation as well as developing documentation and resources. The Fellows will: a) research historic programs and original materials created by their host organization; b) select a collection of significant material for contribution to the AAPB; c) prepare descriptive and technical metadata; d) digitize selected material; e) collaborate with AAPB staff to digitally preserve materials through the AAPB; and f) document their A/V preservation for the benefit of future students in their LIS programs. Fellows will receive conference funding to present about the project and host training events at their graduate program in order to continue building interest among LIS students.

**Diversity Plan:** The Fellowship program will strengthen the diversity of the field by recruiting a cohort of regionally dispersed audiovisual archivists to preserve public media from their local communities. Host sites such as the Center for Asian American Media, KOPN Community Radio, and other stations with a history of engaging with and elevating the voices of historically marginalized communities, will be selected with a focus on underrepresented and under-resourced perspectives, and will collaborate with universities to identify Fellowship applicants with a strong connection to the content.

**Broad Impact:** By creating regional A/V preservation expertise and integrating at-risk public media content into the AAPB, the project will improve the infrastructure of the national digital landscape; additionally, it will pave the road for further collaborations around the preservation of significant archival material. It will also allow the Fellows to build a community of practice among current and future sound and audiovisual archivists, and will build capacity for sound and audiovisual archival training at LIS programs around the country.

**Budget Narrative:** The total funding request for this project is \$245,650. Funding includes: 1) \$34,317 for GBH staff Salaries and Wages (PI Rebecca Fraimow and CO-PI Casey Davis Kaufman, Business Manager and Archivist), 2) \$12,769 for Fringe Benefits at 37.21% based on GBH's federally negotiated rates, 3) \$23,000 for Consultant Fees comprised of \$8,000 for local advisors and \$15,000 for an independent project evaluator, 4) \$3,927 for Staff Travel to disseminate at 2 conferences (airfare, hotel, meals, ground transportation & registration fees), 5) \$15,000 for Supplies & Materials for digitization stations at 3 host institutions, 6) \$128,102 for Student Support (Fellow stipends, immersion week travel, professional development stipend, and travel to present at one industry conference), 7) \$8,440 for Other Costs, comprised of Administration expenses (occupancy, computers, phones and technical supplies for immersion week, which are not included in Indirect Expenses), 8) \$20,095 for GBH federally negotiated Indirect Expenses at 20.62%, which are not applied to Student Support expenses.