

***Citizens of a Wider Commonwealth*
Resident Fellowship
Call for Proposals: 2018 – 2019**

Overview:

Buffalo Bill Center of the West (Center) in Cody, Wyoming, invites proposals for its 2018 – 2019 *Citizens of a Wider Commonwealth Fellowship*, generously funded by Edwina S. Campbell, author of *Citizen of a Wider Commonwealth: Ulysses S. Grant's Postpresidential Diplomacy*, published by Southern Illinois University Press, 2016.

From 1877 – 1879, former President of the United States Ulysses S. Grant embarked on a two-year world tour accompanied by his wife, members of his family, and *New York Herald* journalist John Russell Young. Throughout his travels through Europe and Asia, Grant practiced both public and summit diplomacy, stressing America's belief in self-determination in addition to sharing with the American public his interactions with various heads-of-state throughout the world. In 1887, Buffalo Bill's Wild West appeared in London and performed before Queen Victoria, other royal figures, and various heads-of-state. Buffalo Bill and his entourage returned in 1889, touring Europe for three years and again from 1903-1906. Buffalo Bill and his fellow performers encountered many of the prominent figures met by Grant during his European tour, allowing Buffalo Bill's Wild West to serve as a cultural diplomatic institution, not only conveying American exceptionalism as shaped by the frontier process, but also reaffirming Europe's deep economic, societal, and cultural ties to the United States.

The *Citizens of a Wider Commonwealth Fellowship* is intended to fund research topics related to the transnational legacy of the American West and the European reception of both President Ulysses S. Grant and Buffalo Bill and how these two individuals shaped diplomacy between the United States and Europe. Suggested themes include the following:

- How did formal American diplomacy (embassies and consulates) exploit the presence of the Wild West to expand/enhance relations(hips) in the countries concerned? Correspondingly, how did the British, French, German, etc., embassies in Washington utilize their countries' reception of Buffalo Bill to expand/enhance their relations(hips) with the U.S. government and with Americans?
- How did the travel/residence of American women abroad, from that of former First Lady Julia Grant in 1877 – 1879 to Annie Oakley's and the other women of the Wild West, affect the attitude of the countries in which they travelled, lived, and worked to the role of women in their own societies?
- From 1953-99, the mission of the United States Information Agency was to "tell America's story to the world." But before the establishment of USIA, individuals like Ulysses S. Grant and William F. Cody told that story in their own way. How did the Wild West shape

Europeans' willingness/ability to hear and interpret the American story that the U.S. government wanted to tell in the post-World War II/Cold War world?

- Given expanding literacy in Europe, and the transatlantic connectivity that came with newspapers, steamships, and the transcontinental railroad, what was the Wild West's impact on European immigration to the United States and on integrating Europeans into American society?
- After the Second World War, the Federal Republic of Germany pursued a policy of reconciliation (*Versöhnungspolitik*) with France and other European countries that had been occupied by Nazi Germany. A key part of this policy was the encouragement of "people to people" contact in the form of sister cities, sports, and other cultural exchanges. To what extent was Buffalo Bill's Wild West a "policy of reconciliation" that bridged North-South differences in the post-Civil War United States? That bridged the Atlantic and set the stage for the Anglo-French-American alliance of the twentieth century?

Fellows will be granted a stipend of \$5,000. While Fellowships generally are intended for individuals, the Center will consider group proposals from two or more individuals. If applying as a group, each member must submit the required application materials. If a Fellowship is awarded to a group, the amount awarded will remain \$5,000.

Fellows will be required to conduct research examining transnationalism and public diplomacy as it relates to the American West. Researchers will consult archival/specimen collections-based, and/or field-based research associated with the archival collections at the McCracken Research Library and one or more of the Center's five museums (Buffalo Bill, Cody Firearms, Draper Natural History, Plains Indian, and Whitney Western Art) Please visit the Center's website (centerofthewest.org) for more information on these areas. Special consideration will be given to research proposals that incorporate an interdisciplinary approach and/or innovative methodologies in the study of the American West.

Fellowship Requirements:

Generally, it is expected that fellows will complete a residency of about two weeks or more, depending on the parameters of the Fellow's research needs. The period of residency must be completed between June 1, 2018, and May 31, 2019. There are two weeks which are not available for residency during this time: June 11 to June 17, 2018, and September 17 to September 23, 2018.

Fellows must arrange their own transportation, lodging, and meals during residency. (Note: Cody housing/lodging rates are high during the summer tourist season; off-season rates are less expensive.)

Fellows are required to make a public presentation about their research. Suitable formats include, but are not limited to, a lecture, a peer-reviewed journal article, or a book or book chapter. Any such public presentation must credit the support of the Center.

Fellows must submit a project summary at the end of their residency.

Application Requirements:

Please submit the following application materials **electronically** to Christine Searles, Human Resources Manager at the following address: chriss@centerofthewest.org.

- A **narrative statement (not to exceed three pages)**, summarizing the proposed project's purpose, parameters and methodologies, and addressing how the Center's staff expertise, archival, photographic, physical collections, or other resources will significantly contribute to the project's ultimate success.
- A **timeline** outlining the plan of research and dates for anticipated products.
- A **résumé, C.V. or similar evidence of qualifications**.
- **Two letters of reference**.
- Any other material deemed relevant for consideration.

Selection Criteria:

Fellowships will be awarded based on the following criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed project draws upon the Center's collections, resources, and/or expertise.
- The research project's potential contribution to understanding of the transnational legacy of the American West and its role in shaping public diplomacy.
- The potential for professional presentation and/or publication upon completion of the Fellow's research.
- The likelihood of the project to succeed based on the proposed approach, timeframe, and candidate's qualifications.

Deadline:

April 14, 2018. Fellowships will be awarded by May 1, 2018. All applicants will be notified by email of the outcome of their proposal.