



Connections to Culture 2026

Bill Holm Center Grant Overview

Please review this document before starting your application

The Bill Holm Center (BHC) is a globally accessible learning center for the study of Native arts of the Northwest at the Burke Museum. Through research grants, public outreach, online resources, and publications the BHC:

- ❖ Supports artists and communities connecting with their cultural heritage
- ❖ Promotes research and publications on Northwest Native art
- ❖ Facilitates access to cultural resources at the University of Washington
- ❖ Fosters appreciation and understanding of Native arts and cultures of the Pacific Northwest

Connections to Culture Visiting Researcher Grants

Our Connections to Culture grant program is provided to artists, researchers, as well as academic researchers who are interested in Northwest Native Art. Proposals from artists/researchers whose projects utilize research from the Burke Museum's Heritage: Arts & Cultures Northwest Coast and Plateau collections to grow their personal or community knowledge and/or artistic practice are strongly encouraged to apply. Completed grant applications are reviewed by the Bill Holm Center Advisory Board and staff. Applicants who have received a Connection to Culture grant in the last 2 years will not be considered.

2026 Timeline

- ❖ Grant applications are open from January 20 – February 20, 2026
- ❖ Grant Awards announced mid-March 2026
- ❖ Grants to take place between April 2026 – December 2026

Eligibility

Applicants who have received a Connection to Culture grant in the last 2 years will not be considered.

Research

The Connections to Culture grant funds artist and researcher travel to the Burke Museum in Seattle, WA for 1-3 days to study the Northwest Coast and Plateau collections. Grant awards cover the following for all project participants (including mentors, apprentices, elders, and colleagues):

Questions? Contact the Bill Holm Center: bholmctr@uw.edu or 206.221.8744

- Research stipend of \$750 per person
- Meals, transportation, and lodging in Seattle, WA

Optional Opportunities

In addition to collections research, this research grant can be customized to include the following:

❖ Public Demonstrations in Burke Museum Artist Studio

The Artist Studio is used as a workshop space for visiting artists who have cultural or community ties to our Heritage: Arts & Cultures collection to work on their own art projects, interact with the public, and share their art, knowledge, and cultures through educational live art demonstrations. These demonstrations serve as opportunities for the public to see how the cultures represented in our collections are still living, practiced, and celebrated today by folks who themselves are from these communities.

All the artists who demonstrate in the Artist Studio are compensated, as we want to ensure we are building collaborative relationships with our community partners that respect their time and work as professional artists and cultural practitioners. We compensate each of our artists for \$150/hour, up to \$900 for the day.

❖ Workshops

Collection-based workshops are an opportunity for mentors to host onsite workshops at the Burke Museum that involve or benefit the community and address understanding and creation of Native arts. Workshop mentors may bring their group to the museum to study objects in collection and then lead a hands-on session teaching a particular art form held in one of the many class spaces of the museum. You may apply for smaller funding (less than \$5,000), or you may use this as partial funding for a project with a budget over \$5,000 that has funding from other sources.

❖ Accompanying Guests

Grantees may invite mentors, apprentices, elders, and colleagues during their research visit. The grantee will be asked to provide the number of accompanying guests and their information on the application.

❖ Virtual Access

Virtual collections access is offered to all grantees to use before and/or after their in-person visits to collections. Virtual previews may help grantees prepare for their in-person visit, and follow-up virtual visits will give grantees an additional opportunity to review specific belongings they studied without having to travel back to Seattle.

Grant Coverage

The Connections to Culture's maximum grant award amount is \$5,000 and applicants may apply for any amount up to the maximum value. Part of that award amount is a \$750 research stipend.

All grant recipients may receive reimbursement in the following upon budget approval:

- ❖ Seattle meal per diem (2026 Seattle rate \$92/day per person)
- ❖ Travel costs (plane, ferry, train, mileage, etc.)
- ❖ Lodging costs (hotels, rooms, family accommodations, etc.)
- ❖ Costs associated with Artist studio demonstration (optional)
- ❖ Costs associated with proposed Workshop grants (optional)
- ❖ Other anticipated costs not listed here

The BHC staff will book flights and hotels for grantees unless otherwise designated.

Public Visibility

Several work areas in the Burke Museum are visible to the public given the nature of the Burke's architecture (i.e., large glass windows and glass walls) which enable visitors to see inside collections, workroom, storage areas, and the artist studio.

If there is a moment during your research visit where privacy or non-public viewing is necessary, please let us know and we will accommodate as best as we can.

Photo/Video Documentation

As part of your research, photos and/or videos may be taken during your visit. You may request a copy of any photos or videos taken during your research visit for your own use. The Bill Holm Center and/or the Burke Museum may use these photos/videos for reporting, promotional materials, presentations, and/or social media.

If you would like to opt-out of any photo/video documentation, you can indicate on your application.

Evaluations

All grant recipients will be asked to fill out an evaluation of your experience after your visit. These evaluations are critical for us to track how effective our grant program is in helping artists and researchers with their artistic and scholarly goals, help us improve our programs, and advocate for grant funding. Additionally, we love to use these evaluations as an opportunity to check-in with grantees after their visit to hear how their experience inspired their artwork, new projects, or new experiences our grants helped facilitate!

Payment and Reimbursements Process

All payments and reimbursements are mailed via check to the designated mailing address after your visit. Funding cannot be provided before the research visit is finished. Delivery timing can vary; checks are often received 4-6 weeks after completion of research visit.

Application

This application can best be completed online. Hard copy applications will be considered if applicants do not have access to online submissions. Required uploads to the application include the following:

❖ **Collections List**

To best accommodate your research goals, please review the Heritage: Arts and Cultures Online Collections database and create a preliminary list of belongings you are interested in researching at the Burke.

[Heritage: Arts & Cultures Online Collections Database](#)

If researchers wish to research any culturally sensitive items, a letter of permission from the relevant community will be necessary for the study.

❖ **Letters of Support**

Letters of support are letters from individuals or organizations that advocate, support, or encourage your proposed research project, and the awarding of this grant. Letters of support can be written by (but not limited to): community leaders, elders, mentors, council members, employers, professors, or fellow experts in your field of interest. Writers of letters of support should indicate their relationship to you.

A minimum of ONE (1) letter is required, with a maximum of TWO (2) letters that may be uploaded.

❖ **Budget**

All applicants are asked to submit a budget proposal outlining their funding request. The maximum grant award amount is \$5,000. If applicable, budget proposals should include Please upload a document that outlines anticipated costs and use of grant funds. This document may include the following:

- Stipends (\$750 per person)
- Estimated Seattle meal per diem (2026 Seattle rate \$92/day per person)
- Estimated travel costs (plane, ferry, train, mileage, etc.)
- Estimated lodging costs (hotels, rooms, accommodations, etc.)
- Costs associated with Artist studio demonstration (optional)
- Costs associated with proposed Workshop grants (optional)
- Other anticipated costs not listed here

In addition to the budget, applicants will be asked to provide a budget justification to further elaborate on their funding request. Please provide reasoning for what is listed within your budget, for your requested costs, and any additional requests that have not been listed on this grant overview.

BHC staff can assist prospective grantees during the application process, including but not limited to providing a budget template, example budgets, and example budget justifications if needed.

Bill Holm Center Grant Applications can be found on [The Common Grant Application](#) and searching for the Bill Holm Center.

Information about the Bill Holm Center or our Connections to Culture Grant can be found on our Facebook (@BillHolmCenter), on our website billholmcenter.org, by subscribing to the [Burke Museum's eNews](#), or reaching out to us directly at bholmctr@uw.edu.