The Department of Art Conservation at the University of Delaware announces the establishment of an annual Professional Venture Fund, with grants ranging from $500 - $2500 to honor and support the work of our alumni from the Winterthur / University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation and the Preservation Studies Doctoral Program. Up to $10,000 in grants will be awarded during our pilot year (2021-22).

Grants may be used to:

- Support the development and implementation of community or outreach programming,
- Facilitate the creation and/or delivery of workshops and seminars at all levels,
- Advance initiatives that may strengthen research and scholarship resulting in blog posts or peer-reviewed articles such as collections-based travel or other educational opportunities, or
- Purchase urgently needed equipment.

Special consideration will be given to proposals that push a research project toward publication and/or presentation or create exciting opportunities to strengthen the reach and impact of our profession. While all alumni are eligible, preference will be given to alumni working in the private sector and/or those who graduated within the last twenty years.

Proposals should include a project description, anticipated short- and long-term impact, timeline, and detailed budget. A faculty committee will oversee this award process. Successful recipients will submit a final report outlining accomplishments and expenditures as well as an illustrated blog post for the UD Art Conservation Department website following completion of the proposed initiative.

FAQs

Are there restrictions on how applicants can use the grant?
Recipients are expected to use these grants to strengthen their knowledge, impact, and/or practice and the reach and partnerships of the art conservation profession.

How are grants disbursed to our alumni?
Grants will be awarded as a cash payment through direct deposit. These payments may be taxable.

Will alumni have to pay back the grant?
No. This is a grant, not a loan.

Who is eligible?
Alumni from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation or the Preservation Studies Doctoral Program. Preference will be given to those who are working in the private sector and those who graduated within the last twenty years.

Deadline?
The deadline for submissions and timeline for funded activities will be announced each year.

Questions?
Please contact Debra Hess Norris, Chair Department of Art Conservation at dhnorris@udel.edu or Susan Behrens at behrens@udel.edu.