

ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG FOUNDATION

ARCHIVES RESEARCH RESIDENCY 2026 APPLICATION GUIDELINES

AT A GLANCE

WHO SHOULD APPLY?	Individuals from any field, who can demonstrate a compelling need to use the archival materials housed onsite at the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives in New York City.
RESIDENCY DATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spring: April 20 – May 15, 2026• Summer: June 29 – July 17, 2026• Fall: September 28 – October 23, 2026
RESIDENCY LENGTH	One – Three Weeks
FUNDS AVAILABLE	Research stipend of \$1,500 USD per week plus housing and airfare/train costs depending on travel distance and residency length
DEADLINE	Friday, October 31, 2025, 11:59pm EST <i>Please note, the foundation is not able to grant extensions or accept late submissions</i>
AWARD NOTIFICATION	Mid-January 2026

OVERVIEW

The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives, consisting of Robert Rauschenberg's personal papers and the records from his Florida and New York studios, is the most comprehensive body of information on the artist's life and career. In addition, the archives holds select materials on organizations, art movements, and collaborations in which Rauschenberg was involved.

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The Archives Research Residency supports continued scholarly and investigative use of these materials by supporting individuals that demonstrate a compelling need to use the archives and addressing financial barriers that may prohibit onsite access to the Archives. The application is open to all individuals and all topics within the collection, thereby encouraging research opportunities that move beyond traditional art historical discourse.

This fall, we are commemorating Robert Rauschenberg's 100th birthday by celebrating the artist's profound creativity, spirit of curiosity, and commitment to change. A year of Centennial activities revisits Rauschenberg through the eyes of our time, foregrounding his prescience and enduring influence on generations of artists and others pushing for social progress.

By opening Rauschenberg's legacy to present-day interpretation, the Centennial embraces different understandings, forges cross-disciplinary connections, and creates opportunities for critical exchange. Through these programs, we are moving Rauschenberg's ethos forward and reinforcing his relevance to artists, changemakers, and communities today and in the future.

APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY

The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation (RRF) will provide one-time project-based support to scholars, academics, artists, and other researchers who can demonstrate a compelling need to use the archival materials onsite at the foundation and who may face financial barriers to visiting. To be eligible, applicants must:

- not have received a grant or other funding from RRF in the past 3 years
- be at the graduate level and above or equivalent

The application is open to U.S.-based and international individuals. International recipients are responsible for ensuring they can travel legally to the United States. The Foundation is unable to sponsor visas or other travel documents.

Priority will be given to independent researchers, projects related to underrepresented topics/audiences, and those with significant distance to travel. Present and former staff, consultants, and former archives research residents are ineligible.

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ELIGIBLE PROJECTS / GRANT PURPOSES

RRF is interested in supporting wide and diverse use of the Rauschenberg Archives. The Archives Research Residency will provide partial support for research costs, expanding the range of individuals that are able to visit.

Projects can range from traditional to innovative:

- exhibitions and publications
- globalism and internationalism
- inspiration for personal art practice
- artistic collaboration and multi-disciplinary practices
- underrepresented topics and audiences

Projects can relate to any materials within the archives; projects do not need to focus on Rauschenberg. Creativity is encouraged. See our website for examples of [past residents' topics](#).

This residency is research focused and takes place in a shared library-like setting. It does not include studio or practice space. Residency and the bulk of the research materials are in English.

RESIDENCY DATES

The one- to three-week residency will take place during one of three sessions:

- Spring: April 20 – May 15, 2026
- Summer: June 29 – July 17, 2026
- Fall: September 28 – October 23, 2026

Typical residency hours are Monday – Friday from 10:30 – 5:00. We are closed Saturdays and Sundays. In July and August, we are closed on Fridays.

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STIPEND AMOUNTS / TYPICAL EXPENSES

The Archives Research Residency provides partial support, as outlined below, for research costs. Residents should plan to spend four days to three weeks onsite and costs must be related to the time spent at the foundation. Funds are provided as a stipend and a budget is not required.

Research Stipend Amount

- \$1,500 per week

Housing: available to residents 50+ miles from NYC

- Residents will be provided a housing stipend. Housing in Manhattan may be available as an alternative, more information will become available closer to the start of the residency. This will be arranged after acceptance in dialogue with the resident.

Airfare or Train: to and from NYC

- Booked and paid by Foundation

As the residency does not include a per diem, stipends are typically used to cover local transit, meals, and other costs. Funds will be distributed two- to four-weeks prior to the start of the residency. Minimal reporting will be required at the end of the research period.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Each proposal will be reviewed based on criteria listed below and completeness of application. Prior to decisions, RRF may contact applicants to solicit additional information or clarification. Applicants are notified of RRF's decision in January 2026.

Application will request the following:

- Application Overview
 - Name, Address and Country

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- Academic or Institutional affiliation (if applicable)
- Short Biography (50 words or less)
- Project Title and Summary (50 words or less)
- Project Narrative (500 words or less)
 - Clear, well-described project narrative
 - Anticipated outcome including the project's potential contribution to the researcher's given field and/or projects targeted for wide distribution
- List of materials from Rauschenberg Foundation Archives
 - Materials can be searched on the Foundation's [archives collections and finding aids](#)
 - See [Guide to Searching and Requesting Research Materials](#) for instructions
- Curriculum Vitae or Resume
- Preferred sessions (spring, summer, fall) as well as selection of a one-, two-, and/or three-week residency
- Optional but encouraged: professional affiliations and links or uploads of previous work: websites, publications, writings, digital projects, etc.

Priority will be given to:

- independent researchers for whom travel funding is not available
- applicant's travel distance
- projects that are well-formed and illustrate need for on-site archival research
- the project's potential contribution to the researcher's given field
- projects that are targeted for wide distribution or investigate under-represented topics/audiences

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications will be accepted starting Monday, September 15, 2025, via online application portal [Submittable](#). The deadline to apply is Friday, October 31, 2025, 11:59 pm EST. Successful applicants will be notified in January 2026.

Learn more at [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Additional questions about the program and/or application can be directed to archives@rauschenbergfoundation.org.