New fellowship being awarded for 2024 selection season

Fellowship to Support the Study of Social and Cultural Club Life in Boston

Sponsored by the Algonquin Club Foundation

Deadline: 21 May 2024

Apply today!

The Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS) announces a new short-term (6-week) fellowship for the 2024 selection season. Sponsored by the Algonquin Club Foundation, the fellowship carries a stipend of $5,000.

This fellowship supports research in the Historical Society's holdings on topics related to the social and cultural aspects of Boston club life from the mid-nineteenth century to the first quarter of the twenty-first century. **Priority will be given to projects that focus on and incorporate the Algonquin Club into the broader context of American life and the built landscape.**

Potential research topics relating to the social and cultural world of clubs in Boston may include but are not limited to: art history, material culture, business history, food culture, and the histories of club members as a cohort. Additional topics might include:

- Women’s roles in clubs and organizations.
- Art and culture: clubs as sites for exhibiting and selling art and as influencers of artistic culture in Boston.
- Architecture: major local firms as well as nationally known architects built the places of worship for the people of the Back Bay as well as their houses and clubs. For example, designed by McKim, Mead, & White, the Algonquin Club was the first purpose-built clubhouse in Boston and one of the earliest in the United States.

The MHS houses the records of multiple Boston clubs such as the ’95 Sewing Club (for upper-class Boston women), the Apollo Club (the city’s oldest active male chorus), the Brighthelmstone Club (founded in 1896 “to become an organized centre for progressive thought and action and to establish a place for social meetings,” the Commonwealth Club (a non-partisan group dedicated to political reform), the Friday Evening Club (a monthly dinner and discussion group made up of educators and administrators), the Saturday Club (a dining club for those involved in arts and sciences), and the St. Botolph Club (founded to promote “social intercourse among authors, artists, and other gentlemen connected or interested in literature and art”).

Applicants will submit, through the MHS fellowship application portal under “Algonquin Club Foundation Fellowship,” a C.V. (no longer than 3 pages), a cover letter, a project description with a list of collections to be consulted, and a letter of recommendation (if a terminal degree such as a Ph.D. has not yet been attained). The recipient of the fellowship will be required to produce an informal presentation for the members of the Algonquin Club Foundation.
Learn more about the Algonquin Club materials at the MHS along with other club records by examining the MHS Library Catalog.

We look forward to reviewing your application!

Massachusetts Historical Society | 1154 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02215

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