

FAQs for Applicants: Toward Equity in Publishing

What is the Toward Equity in Publishing (TEP) program?

Toward Equity in Publishing is a new initiative designed to remediate the inequitable conditions that precede and impede publication in the field of American art history. This professional development program is being launched by the peer-reviewed journal [American Art](#), which is co-published by the Smithsonian American Art Museum and University of Chicago Press. It is supported by a \$64,000 grant from the [Dedalus Foundation](#).

What does the TEP program provide?

Through editorial mentorship and workshops, the program will demystify scholarly publication processes and help scholars revise manuscripts for submission and publication.

- Six months of workshops on finding the right venue for your work, preparing your manuscript for the best possible fit, anticipating what readers will need, managing image rights and reproductions, finding a publisher for your book, and what to expect from peer reviews and how to respond.
- A writing group cohort of six author-participants, plus a larger network as the program grows
- 40 hours of support from a professional developmental editor
- Double-anonymized peer reviews provided by subject-area experts
- A one-on-one meeting with the *American Art* journal's executive editor about your publishing strategy

What were the high-level needs that gave rise to the program and what are its goals?

Some institutions provide their students, faculty, and staff with research and publishing grants, paid leave, and structured writing support; such perquisites increase these scholars' publication acceptance rates. Not all scholars enjoy these benefits. *American Art* wants to bridge this gap. Our goal is to invigorate and diversify the field at large.

Is there a stipend or grant for participating in this program?

No, currently TEP participants do not receive any direct funding.

What does the Dedalus grant of \$64,000 pay for, if not grants to participants?

The Dedalus grant allows the program to contract experienced and highly skilled editors who are also knowledgeable about a range of topics in U.S. art history. The editors provide developmental and line editing support to the TEP author-participants by engaging with the argument, evidence, structure, and prose, and will guide the author through revision. Each selected author will receive forty hours of editing support for a single article-length manuscript.

If an application is accepted, will *American Art* publish the participant's manuscript?

There is no obligation for the participants to publish with *American Art*, nor for the journal to publish their work.

Are there attendance requirements?

Participants meet once a month. To take full advantage of the program, participants are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings and other occasional workshops available during the program. Currently, the meetings take place on the second Monday of the month, 4:00pm—6:00pm ET.

Will the program be live or digital?

The TEP program is currently digital. Participants meet as a group and with developmental editors via Zoom. Workshops are also available through Zoom and some are prerecorded.

Will there be contact with the journal staff or editorial board?

Yes. The journal's executive editor or another staff-member will attend most of the monthly meetings and provide some of the workshops. There may be opportunities to meet editorial board members on request.

Will there be presentation opportunities?

Presentations are not part of the curriculum, although within the program, there are definitely opportunities for participants to share their work with each other.

Are artists eligible for the program?

Yes, if the artists are submitting scholarly art history/visual culture manuscripts that would be appropriate for the readership of the *American Art* journal.

Are tenured faculty eligible?

No.

Must an applicant be “early-career” to be considered?

No, if an applicant is untenured faculty (including adjuncts, lecturers, etc.), junior museum staff, or an independent scholar who is struggling to achieve publication success, they are eligible.

Are published untenured faculty eligible for the program?

Yes, although the program gives priority to scholars who do not have a strong publication record yet.

EVALUATION

What is the deadline for application and what is the timeline for notification after submitting?

- March 15 deadline, interviews in late April, and decisions sent in May
- September 15 deadline, interviews in late October, and decisions sent in November

How does the selection committee evaluate candidates, specifically the manuscript submitted with the application?

Candidates are evaluated by eligibility first, then by whether the manuscript meets the basic requirements of subject, length, readiness for the developmental editing process; and then the potential contribution to the field of U.S.-American art history. The committee holds interviews, which are more like conversations, to get a sense of where the applicant is in their career, how they approach their writing, and how the program could help.