DOCENT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY Conference

CENTER for RAILROAD PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

Conference Dates:	April 10-12, 2015
Deadline for Application:	February 1, 2015
Recipient Notifications:	February 13, 2015

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art seeks to grant two docent scholarships to young or emerging photographers or visual artists to attend its annual conference, "Conversations about Photography." Two applicants who demonstrate financial need and creative work may be awarded docent scholarships, which provide attendance, lodging, and partial travel expenses in exchange for limited volunteer service at the conference.

An ideal applicant will demonstrate:
• Thoughtful work in photography or other visual arts with rail-related subject matter
• How attending the conference will support his or her development as a visual artist
• Financial need
• Volunteer experience

Note, although the Center considers the applicants' work in granting docent scholarships, the recipients will not be presenting work at the conference.

The chosen applicants will be tasked as docents during the course of the conference's three days. Duties may include:

• Staffing the registration table
• Assisting with book sales
• Helping with setup and take down of exhibits or other event materials
• Escorting speakers or other guests around the campus
• Various other tasks as assigned by Center staff

Docent duties will require missing portions of the presentations, however, the intention is that docent workloads will be light enough that a chosen applicant will be able to view most presentations, and fully participate in every aspect of the conference.

If chosen, an applicant will receive:
• Admission to the conference for the entire weekend
• Two nights of lodging at the conference hotel (double occupancy to be shared between both selected applicants)
• Reimbursement of travel expenses up to $300

Who May Apply:

Docent scholarships are specifically available to young and/or emerging photographers and visual artists. Applications are thus restricted to individuals producing photography or other visual works of art focusing on rail related subjects, who are *at least one* of the following:

- Under the age of 30 at the time of application
- Enrolled in an institution of higher learning, in a program relating to fine arts
- Have less than five years of experience in his or her field of visual arts, as demonstrated on the supplied CV

In addition, the intention of the docent scholarship is to support individuals who would, without this support, be unable to attend.

The docent scholarship is a one-time grant. Recipients are not eligible for future docent scholarship grants.

About the Center:

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art (www.railphoto-art.org) is America's foremost organization for interpreting the intersection of railroad art and culture with America's history and culture. The Center has achieved that status through successful publications (especially its quarterly journal, *Railroad Heritage*®), exhibitions, conferences, and an online web portal (railroadheritage.org) that features the best of railroad photography and art coupled with descriptive summaries that enhance understanding of railroad history, technology, and artistry. Founded in 1997, the Center works with photographers, artists, writers, and historians across the country, although its home is in Madison, Wisconsin. The Center does not maintain its museum or archive space, but instead collaborates with other institutions.

About the Conference:

The conference is the nation's premier venue for presentations on railroad art and photography. The three-day event is held on the picturesque campus of Lake Forest College, just 30 miles north of Chicago. The Center celebrated the twelfth anniversary of the conference in 2014 with sold-out attendance of 180. Attendees include active railroad photographers and artists, magazine editors, industry leaders, and scholars from wide backgrounds. Past presenters include photographers David Plowden and Lina Bertucci, railroad executive Henry Posner III, writers such as novelist Linda Niemann and Washington Post transportation columnist Don Phillips, and curators Ian Kennedy of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and Anne M. Lyden of the J. Paul Getty Museum.

Application Process:

Applications will only be accepted electronically.

Please submit the following:

   A.) A two-page, double-spaced (approximately 500 words) statement of purpose describing, at a minimum: The medium(s) that the applicant uses (e.g. photography, oil painting, collage, etcetera)
   • The applicant's approach or vision of the subject matter
   • A description of any projects the applicant has/is engaged in and any special achievements
   • Any training, experience, or influences that have contributed to the applicant's development
   • Why the applicant would be unlikely to attend the conference without the docent scholarship
   • How the applicant feels he or she would benefit from attendance
   • Contact information including, name, phone number, and email address

   B.) Curriculum Vitae (or Résumé), which should include all relevant education, publications, and/or previous awards, and any previous volunteer experience.

   C.) Ten (10) sample images.

All text files must be submitted in .doc or .pdf format, and should be named as follows:

PDF   Word
applicantname_essay_2014.pdf   applicantname_essay_2014.doc
applicantname_cv_2014.pdf   applicantname_cv_2014.doc

Images should be submitted in .jpg format, at 72dpi and with the longest dimension being 1024 pixels. Please name the image files as follows, with "XX" to be replaced by a unique image name or number of the applicant's choice:

Images
applicantname_XX_2014.jpg

Applicant is encouraged to compress all application files into a single .zip file.

Zip file, if used:
applicantname_images_2014.zip

Submit the completed application by e-mail to info@railphoto-art.org

Submission deadline is January 15, 2014 at 11:59 p.m. Central. Applicants will be notified of their status by no later than February 1, 2014.