

MARY SACHS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Mary Sachs was known as the “**Merchant Princess**,” a title bestowed upon her by former Pennsylvania Governor and U.S. Senator Edward Martin in 1958 in recognition of her business success and extraordinary generosity in supporting numerous charitable causes. She later earned a second distinction as the “**Princess of Philanthropy**,” and in 1960, Eleanor Roosevelt described her as “**a very remarkable woman.**”

Born in Lithuania, Mary immigrated to the United States at the age of four. After losing her job in a Harrisburg dress shop for being honest with a customer, she resolved to open a business of her own. With ingenuity far exceeding her financial means, she opened her doors on September 6, 1918, building her enterprise on personal service and style. Her shop quickly flourished. After surviving a devastating fire in 1931, she reopened at 208 North Third Street, where her store became the premier destination for women’s fashion in Harrisburg.

A devoted philanthropist, Mary described herself in a 1960 interview as “**a collector of helping. It makes me feel more alive.**” She passed away in 1960 at the age of 72, leaving a lasting legacy of resilience, generosity, and civic commitment.

OVERVIEW:

The Historic Harrisburg Association (HHA), in partnership with the Mary Sachs Charitable Trust, is awarding the Mary Sachs Research Fellowship to honor her legacy by advancing the same spirit of curiosity, generosity, and civic commitment that defined her life. By supporting original, place-based research on the people, institutions, and events that shaped Harrisburg, the Capital Region, and Pennsylvania, her fellowship ensures that local and state history, much like Mary Sachs’s own story, is carefully researched, preserved, and shared. In doing so, it deepens public understanding of our shared heritage and carries forward Mary Sachs’s belief in helping by investing in scholars' work that will benefit future generations' understanding of the past.

AMOUNT:

\$3,000.00

ELIGIBILITY:

The Mary Sachs Research Fellowship is open to:

- Independent scholars
- College and university faculty
- Graduate students

- Scholars working in disciplines related to the history of Harrisburg, the Capital Region, or Pennsylvania

Applicants must reside in Pennsylvania, with additional consideration given to those living within a 50-mile radius of the City of Harrisburg. Scholars from a wide range of disciplines are encouraged to apply. Fellowship recipients may not apply in consecutive years.

The fellowship is awarded in the spring, with the fellowship term beginning in late May or early June. Applications must be submitted to the Historic Harrisburg Association by **March 15**, and grantees are typically notified within **6 to 8 weeks**.

Fellows will be required to provide their Social Security numbers for tax purposes. Fellowship funds are distributed on a **bi-weekly basis** until the grant is fully disbursed.

Historic Harrisburg Association and the Fellow each retain the right to publish or otherwise publicly disclose information obtained during the course of the fellowship. The Historic Harrisburg Association may, at its discretion, release information or publish materials resulting from the fellowship. Any work published by the Fellow after the conclusion of the fellowship must acknowledge that the research was completed during the period of the fellowship.

Historic Harrisburg Association reserves the right not to award/retract the fellowship should extenuating circumstances arise.

APPLICATION:

Applicants must fill out the fellowship application and submit the following materials as one single PDF:

1. Cover Page

The cover page must include:

- Applicant's name, address, phone number, and email address
- Title of the proposed project
- Institutional affiliation (if applicable)
- Field(s) of study and academic classification (MA, ABD, PhD, etc.)

Scholars without an institutional affiliation will be considered for funding; however, additional information will be required. Graduate student applicants must include two letters of recommendation from faculty members familiar with the student's work and the proposed project. Letters must be included in the same PDF submission.

2. Curriculum Vitae

3. Project Prospectus (3–5 pages)

The prospectus should describe the proposed research project and clearly explain how it would benefit from use of the fellowship funds. Applicants should address:

- Project overview and significance
- Research questions, sources, and methods
- Work completed to date
- Necessity of the research and relevance to Pennsylvania history
- Proposed end product of the project
- Estimated time to be spent at HHA and other relevant institutions
- Project timetable
- Budget outlining how fellowship funds will be used to maximize research time

HHA supports research on all aspects of Pennsylvania history, with additional consideration given to projects focused on a person, place, or topic related to the City of Harrisburg or the Capital Region. Applicants who anticipate visiting other archives must identify those repositories and include those visits in the proposed timeline.

Relevant research materials may be found at the Historic Harrisburg Association Library & Archives, the Historical Society of Dauphin County's Alexander Family Research Library and Archives, the Pennsylvania State Archives, and other relevant institutions.

SELECTION PROCESS:

All applications for the Mary Sachs Research Fellowship are reviewed by a selection panel. Fellows are chosen based on the significance of the proposed research, its relevance to Harrisburg, the Capital Region, or Pennsylvania history, and the anticipated time required to complete the project. The selection panel also considers how effectively the proposed research will utilize the resources of the Historic Harrisburg Association and contribute to a broader public understanding of local history.

REQUIREMENTS:

Recipients of the Mary Sachs Research Fellowship must fulfill the following requirements:

- Present a formal presentation on their research within one month of the conclusion of the fellowship. Failure to present will require repayment of fellowship funds.

- Submit a final narrative report of **3 to 5 pages** outlining the work completed at the Historic Harrisburg Association within one month of the fellowship's conclusion. Failure to submit the report will require repayment of fellowship funds.
- Provide the Historic Harrisburg Association with a copy of any publications, presentations, or materials that result from or are supported by the fellowship.

Selections are made without regard to race, religion, sex, national origin, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

If you have any questions, please contact HHA at info@historicharrisburg.org or (717) 233-4646.