
Student Exhibition Advisory Group

The Student Exhibition Advisory Group provides oversight and support for the exhibition program that provides content for the Student Exhibition Corridor in Sterling Memorial Library. The membership comes from across the Yale University Library (YUL) system and is co-led by James Kessenides, Kaplanoff Librarian for American History & Kerri Sancomb, Exhibition Production Program Manager. The membership rotates annually, with members serving staggered two year terms. The Communications Manager for Public Relations/Writing, and the Library Exhibit Technicians are permanent committee members.

The Advisory Group performs these tasks:

- Increases use of SML exhibit venues by YUL staff, Yale faculty and students, and Yale-affiliated groups
- Coordinates communication about the programming and use of the SML exhibit corridor
- Reviews exhibition proposals to ensure that programming reflects and supports teaching and research at Yale
- Establishes and maintains appropriate guidelines for the use of exhibition venues and the handling of objects on display in SML
- Supports the Library Exhibits Advisor as needed

Yale University Library Exhibitions Mission/Vision

The Yale University Library's Exhibitions Program will support and enhance research, teaching, and learning at Yale and for the world-wide scholarly community. Library exhibits:

- Highlight YUL expertise, collections, and services
- Contribute to making the Library the physical destination of choice for the Yale community
- Encourage collaboration among Library staff, researchers, faculty, students
- Offer opportunities for Library staff professional development
- Present a "borderless" view of the Library and its collections
- Uphold the highest standards for the care of collections on display and encourage good handling and preservation practices

Learn more about exhibitions in Sterling Library

[Current News](#) [1]

[Past Exhibitions](#) [2]

For Students

Student-Curated Exhibits at Yale Library in the Sterling Memorial Library Exhibition Corridor

Learn how to present your research using the unique narrative form of an exhibit. The library's exhibit staff will assist you to choose, describe, sequence, and arrange objects from the library's diverse collections.

For the 2025/26 academic year we are offering the Senior Exhibit Fellowship at Yale Library:

- [Senior Exhibit Fellowship at Yale Library](#) [3]
 - ?Open to Yale College Class of '26

Senior Exhibit Fellowship at Yale Library

[Senior Exhibit Fellowship at Yale Library - Proposals due March 7, 2025](#)

This fellowship provides one rising senior with training in curatorial skills and culminating in the production of a library exhibition based on the student's senior essay topic using materials from the Yale Library collections.

One Yale College junior will be selected to receive library funding, mentoring, and exhibit production support over the course of nine months to research, create and curate a professional-quality exhibit opening in spring of their senior year.

The selected student will be awarded a \$4,200 stipend to subsidize a five-week summer research fellowship to be completed the summer between their junior and senior years. This research, which must be completed on Yale campus using YUL collections, will become the foundation for the content of the exhibit.

Fellowship duration is from Summer 2025 (five-week research fellowship) through Spring 2026 (senior year research and production).

This opportunity is perfect for students who have experience researching with primary source materials, are curious about the curatorial process, enjoy working collaboratively, and whose senior essay subject can be strongly represented by physical objects from the YUL collections.

Learn more about previous senior exhibit fellows:

[2024 AJ Laird Whaling Logbooks: Records of a Maritime Industry](#) [4]

[2023 Chucho Martinez The Study of Things: George Kubler in Latin America](#) [5]

[Review these guidelines](#) [6] to learn about the SML exhibit committee's proposal review criteria and get some tips for creating a strong proposal.

Proposal submission:

- [Submit your proposal here](#) [7]

Eligibility:

- Yale College Class of '26.

Timeline:

- Proposals due: Friday, March 7, 2025
- Selected students notified late April 2025
- Summer internship: Curator selects five weeks between June and September
- Exhibition development and production: September – April of senior year
- Opening reception: April 2026. On view: April – October 2026

If you are considering this opportunity:

- Review fellowship recipient [roles and responsibilities](#) [8], as well as deadlines and workflows.
- Discuss the opportunity with a [Faculty Advisor](#) [9] and a [Librarian Exhibit Advisor](#) [10]. Your selected advisors must agree to work with and advise you throughout the year-long project.

Listen to past Senior Exhibit curators:

If you are just getting started...

Learning how to do research in the collections is the first step toward any exhibit opportunity.

- Start by getting to know your [Personal Librarian](#) [11] or [subject specialist](#) [12], as well as archivists and collection specialists.
- Explore and discover the collections at [Archives at Yale](#) [13].
- Get ideas by looking at previous years' exhibits via the [SML Exhibits LibGuide](#). [2]
- Learn about opportunities to create [online exhibits at Yale University Library](#) [14].

Send questions to kerri.sancomb@yale.edu [15]

For Faculty

Ways faculty can get involved with exhibits at Sterling Memorial Library (SML):

- Encourage highly motivated and committed students in their junior year to [submit a proposal](#) [16] for the Yale Library Senior Exhibit Fellowship.
- Be a faculty advisor for a [Senior Exhibit Fellowship](#) [17]
- Review responsibilities here: [Senior Exhibit Fellowship Advisor](#) [9].
- Spread the word about new exhibit opportunities in SML to colleagues across campus.
- Attend an [information session](#) [18].
- Learn about [online exhibits at Yale University Library](#) [14]

Ways students can benefit from curating exhibits in the library:

Academic/research skills:

- Provides a cohesive picture for the student of their academic support network: academic advisor, library specialists, IT specialists
- Develops a familiarity with physical library collections and spaces
- Provides experience researching with primary source materials
- Facilitates interactions with Yale University Library (YUL) staff
- Supports use of online resources to enhance research skills
- Encourages cross-disciplinary and cross-collection research and investigation
- Supplements traditional research outputs such as papers, essays, blogs, or web sites

Life skills:

- Accountability and self confidence
- Project management and organizational skills
- Communication skills and experience

For Library Staff

Ways library staff can get involved with exhibits at SML:

- Encourage highly motivated and committed students in their junior year to submit a proposal for the [Yale Library Senior Exhibit Fellowship](#) [19].
- Volunteer to be a Librarian Exhibit Advisor and mentor a student curator through the research and object selection of an exhibit.
- Spread the word about new exhibit opportunities in SML to our colleagues across campus.
- Talk to your department head about serving on the exhibits committee in the future.
- Learn about [online exhibits at Yale University Library](#) [14]

Librarian Exhibit Advisor

Open to all professional library staff with supervisor's approval, the Librarian Exhibit Advisor is a rotating volunteer support role for exhibit production in the [Sterling Memorial Library venues](#) [20]. This person will offer guidance in content development to student curators and exhibit curators with little or no experience with SML exhibitions.

This opportunity has numerous benefits both for individual professional growth and in support of the library's mission to support and enhance research, teaching, and learning at Yale. The Exhibits Production Coordinator will provide training for each new librarian exhibit advisor, and when necessary connect new exhibit advisors with other library staff who have prior exhibit experience.

Review exhibit advisor responsibilities for each project here: [Senior Exhibit Fellowship Advisor](#) [10], [Student Research at YUL Exhibit Advisor](#) [21]

If you have specific questions about being a librarian exhibit advisor please contact [Kerri Sancomb](#) [22], Exhibits Program Manager.

Sterling Memorial Library Exhibition Corridor

Sterling Memorial Library Exhibition Corridor hosts exhibit opportunities each year supporting student research and Yale library collections. Topics and curators are selected by the [Student Exhibition Advisory Group](#) [23] from proposals submitted by prospective curators.

Exhibits may feature materials from any Yale University Library collection. The library provides funding and staff support for production. Materials requiring special display conditions or security may be presented in facsimile.

Sterling Library Exhibition Corridor

Exhibits in the Exhibition Corridor are curated by students, based on their own research with materials from any Yale library collection.

- In the spring, the Yale Library Senior Exhibition Fellowship is curated by one senior using all five exhibition cases to present a capstone project.

[See examples of past exhibits in the Exhibition Corridor.](#) [2]

Email questions to kerri.sancomb@yale.edu [15].

Forms

Use the following online forms to submit proposals for:

- Senior Exhibit Fellowship at Yale Library Proposal (check back in early 2025 for active proposal link)

For questions contact any member of the Student Exhibition Advisory Group.

Student Exhibition Advisory Group

Name, Job Title	Term and role (if applicable)
Megan Czekaj, Library Exhibit Technician [24], Conservation & Exhibit Strategies [25]	Permanent Member
Deborah Cannarella, Writer/Public Relations Manager [26]	Permanent Member
Sarah Davis, Library Exhibition Technician, Conservation & Exhibit Strategies [27]	Permanent Member
Emily Horning, Director of Undergraduate Research Education and Outreach [28]	One-year term
James Kessenides, Kaplanoff Librarian for American History [29]	<i>Committee Co-Chair, P</i>
Jessica Pigza, Associate Director, Arts Library Special Collections [30]	Two-year term
Jennifer Snow, Instruction Librarian, Marx Science & Social Science Library [31]	Two-year term
Kerri Sancomb, Exhibits Production Program Manager, Conservation and Exhibit Strategies [32]	<i>Committee Co-Chair, P</i>

Information Sessions

Senior Exhibit Fellowship at Yale Library

Join library staff to learn about the Senior Exhibit Fellowship at Yale Library. During this 60 minute Zoom information session you will learn tips for creating a successful proposal, what goes into creating physical exhibit and have an opportunity to ask questions related to your own proposal.

Tuesday, February 4 from 4-5 <https://schedule.yale.edu/event/14062678> [33]

Friday, February 7 from 12-1 <https://schedule.yale.edu/event/14062724> [34]

Monday, February 10 from 12-1 <https://schedule.yale.edu/event/14062763> [35]

Tuesday, February 11 from 4-5 <https://schedule.yale.edu/event/14062770> [36]

The [advisory group members](#) [37] are available for one on one assistance.

Source URL: <https://web.library.yale.edu/student-exhibition-advisory-group>

Links

[1] <https://library.yale.edu/exhibitions> [2] https://guides.library.yale.edu/past_sterling_library_exhibits/exhibit_corridor [3] <https://web.library.yale.edu/sml-exhibition-committee/students> [4] <https://library.yale.edu/news/senior-exhibit-fellow-aj-laird-24-tracking-whaling-vessels-archive> [5] <https://news.yale.edu/2023/04/28/creating-exhibit-lyrical-and-epigrammatic> [6] <https://web.library.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/Exhibitions/Guide%20for%20Yale%20Library%20Senior%20Exhibit%20fellowship%20applicants.pdf> [7] <https://yale.communityforce.com/Funds/FundDetails.aspx?496F49596D593768464E3537506B6F754D5442315A36532B56456639694B6469507375572F6C705943543774417858796561564A496C786D35782B6E674A4D476A6644674E796A503777673D> [8] <https://web.library.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/Senior%20Project%20Curator%20responsibilities.pdf> [9] <https://web.library.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/Faculty%20Advisor%20Senior%20exhibit%20production%20responsibilities.pdf> [10] [https://web.library.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/Librarian%20Exhibits%20Advisor%20responsibilities\(1\).pdf](https://web.library.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/Librarian%20Exhibits%20Advisor%20responsibilities(1).pdf) [11] <http://web.library.yale.edu/pl> [12] <https://web.library.yale.edu/subject-specialists> [13] <http://archives.yale.edu> [14] <http://guides.library.yale.edu/omeka> [15] <http://web.library.yale.edu/forms> [16] <http://web.library.yale.edu/sml-exhibits-committee/students> [17] <http://web.library.yale.edu/information-sessions> [18] <http://web.library.yale.edu/students> [19] <http://web.library.yale.edu/sml-exhibit-venues> [20] <https://web.library.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/Student%20Research%20at%20YUL%20exhibit%20advisor%20responsibilities.pdf> [21] <http://resources.library.yale.edu/StaffDirectory/detail.aspx?q=510> [22] <https://web.library.yale.edu/student-exhibition-advisory-group> [23] <https://library.yale.edu/people/megan-czekaj> [24] <https://library.yale.edu/people/megan-czekaj> [25] <https://library.yale.edu/people/deborah-cannarella> [26] <https://library.yale.edu/people/sarah-davis> [27] <https://web.library.yale.edu/sd/staff/42> [28] <https://web.library.yale.edu/user/29956> [29] <https://library.yale.edu/people/jessica-pigza> [30] <https://library.yale.edu/people/jennifer-snow> [31] <https://web.library.yale.edu/sd/staff/2214> [32] <https://schedule.yale.edu/event/14062678> [33] <https://schedule.yale.edu/event/14062724> [34] <https://schedule.yale.edu/event/14062763> [35] <https://schedule.yale.edu/event/14062770> [36] <https://web.library.yale.edu/student-exhibition-advisory-group/student-exhibition-advisory-group> [37]