

POSITION AVAILABLE
(August 2023 – July 2025)

RESIDENT COLLECTIONS FELLOW

CRANBROOK CENTER FOR COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

**2023-2025 Fellowship Focus: Albert Kahn-Designed Cranbrook House and its
Collection of Arts & Crafts and Early Twentieth-Century Furniture and Decorative Arts**

Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research is accepting applications for its **2023-2025 Resident Collections Fellow**. This is a unique opportunity for an emerging museum or historic house curator with a passion for decorative arts and architectural history to play a leading role in the preservation and interpretation of Cranbrook's diverse historic collections and built environment. This post-graduate fellowship, which provides a professional bridge to long-term curatorial careers, includes a modest apartment on Cranbrook's campus in a carriage house designed by Albert Kahn.

Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research centralizes Cranbrook's 119-year story and offers intellectual engagement with its legacy. Launched in 2012, the Center encompasses the management and curatorial leadership of Cranbrook's campus-wide collection of Cultural Properties, Archives, historic architecture (most notably Cranbrook House, Saarinen House, and the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Smith House), Cultural Heritage Areas, and cultural landscapes. By preserving and interpreting the community's unparalleled landscape, architecture, collections, and archives, the Center provides memorable educational experiences and meaningful research opportunities for internal and external audiences. The Center's offices are housed within both Cranbrook House and Cranbrook Art Museum, where the Center takes advantage of the state-of-the-art Collections Wing. The public operation of Cranbrook Archives, which is a key component of the Center, is located within the Collections Wing of the Art Museum.

Reporting to the Center's Director and working closely with the Center's Curator, while also working collaboratively with the staff of the Center (notably the registrar and archivists) as well as the staffs of Cranbrook's Art Museum, Institute of Science, and Schools, and the volunteers of Cranbrook House & Gardens Auxiliary, the Collections Fellow researches collections and assists with the development of their documentation, accessioning, storage, care, conservation, and inventory, as well as their display and interpretation within the context of Cranbrook House (the founders' 1908 Albert Kahn-designed manor home), Saarinen House (Eliel Saarinen's 1930 Art Deco masterwork), and Smith House (a 1950 Usonian house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright); develops and organizes collections-based educational programs for Cranbrook Schools; develops lectures and tours for regional audiences, including the Center's popular Day Away bus tours; assists with visiting researchers; develops the representation of the Center's collections and programs on the Center's website; writes blogs and works with the Curator to edit the Center's blog ("Cranbrook Kitchen Sink"); assists with fundraisers; and provides private tours of the campus, including Cranbrook House, Saarinen House, and Smith House.

The Center's **2023-2025 Resident Collections Fellow** will focus on researching the furniture, decorative arts, and fine art collections housed in Cranbrook House, the original home of Cranbrook co-founders, newspaper publishers and philanthropists George Gough Booth and Ellen Scripps Booth. Designed by Detroit-based architect Albert Kahn and built in stages between 1908 and 1920, the Tudoresque home and surrounding grounds are replete with custom-designed furnishings and decorative arts. From entrance gates forged by Samuel Yellin to the oak overmantel in the library carved by John Kirchmayer, the house exemplifies the ideals of the Arts & Crafts Movement. Building on a solid foundation of existing research, the 2023-2025 Resident Collection Fellow's work in Cranbrook House will culminate in a definitive inventory and documentation of these collections and their representation on the Center's new eMuseum website, a Furnishings Plan, an updated tour script for the volunteer docents that work with Cranbrook House & Gardens Auxiliary, and a booklet or similar publication on Cranbrook House and its collections. This work will be enriched by a series of small exhibitions located within Cranbrook House.

The **2023-2025 Resident Collections Fellow** also will be involved in several other major Center projects: the development of plans to restore and expand a 1925 Albert Kahn-designed home on Cranbrook's campus into the new home of the Center and Archives; the rehabilitation of Cranbrook's 1915 Japanese Garden; and the continued documentation of the Center's campus-wide collection of Cultural Properties and Cultural Heritage Areas—in particular the Cranbrook House-related collections that George Booth acquired for the original Eliel Saarinen-designed Cranbrook School for Boys (now part of the coeducational Cranbrook Schools Upper School).

The ideal candidate should have an M.A. in decorative arts, art history, architecture history, material culture, or a related field (completion of M.A. coursework required), with an emphasis on late 19th-through mid-20th-century art and architecture and a specialty/interest in decorative arts and design; demonstrated object-based research and interpretation skills; outstanding speaking, writing, and editing skills; attention to detail; strong computer skills (Microsoft Office, especially PowerPoint), including comfort with virtual presentation platforms; and collections database experience (TMS preferred). Previous curatorial experience or internships preferred.

Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research is a part of **Cranbrook Educational Community**, which also includes Cranbrook Schools, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Cranbrook Art Museum, Cranbrook Institute of Science, and Cranbrook House & Gardens. Located in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, twenty miles north of downtown Detroit, Cranbrook's 319-acre campus is a National Historic Landmark District that welcomes tens of thousands of museum visitors each year to the Institute of Science, Art Museum, and three historic houses. Cranbrook also is home to more than 1,600 students in grades pre-K through 12 attending Cranbrook Schools and over 130 graduate Academy students.

The 24-month fellowship begins in August 2023 (although a later start-date may be considered) and continues for twenty-four months through July 2025. The annual compensation is \$37,800 based on a full-time work schedule (including periodic evening and weekend responsibilities), with a modest apartment on Cranbrook's campus provided (no pets or smoking permitted). This position is eligible for Cranbrook's Blue Cross Blue Shield Simply Blue medical plan.

Application Process:

For consideration, please submit the following: In addition to your resume, you must upload a cover letter (including Fellowship and career goals) and a writing sample. Your application will be considered incomplete without these materials. Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled, with priority given to applications received by April 17, 2023. Click here to apply: [Resident Collections Fellow | Cranbrook Employment Opportunities \(ultiopro.com\)](#). The application also may be accessed by clicking on the Employment button at the top of Cranbrook's main website, Cranbrook.edu.