



# The Curb Center

FOR ART, ENTERPRISE & PUBLIC POLICY  
*at Vanderbilt*

## Call for 2019-2020 Graduate Public Scholars Program Applications

As part of Curb Center's mission to advance the standing of creative and cultural expression in generating innovative approaches to real-world problems, the Center is seeking proposals from graduate students interested in becoming part of the 2019-2020 Curb Public Scholars cohort.

The Curb Public Scholars Program supports graduate students from across the Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University Medical Center campuses who have created innovative projects that apply their research studies in a community setting to achieve impact outside of any academic environment.

Successful applicants will propose projects that engage a public audience through some type of art-based or creative expression to explore an issue raised by the individual's dissertation or other research findings. We are especially interested in initiatives that explore creative ways to implement research findings, develop evidence-based public policies, or transform academic work into publicly available resources for the good of our communities.

Public Scholars receive a 1-year grant of up to \$2000 to facilitate their project goals. Public Scholars also enjoy access to all Curb meeting, studio and workshop spaces, equipment and supplies while participating in regular project management and mentorship meetings through the year. Scholars will also have numerous occasions throughout their appointment to interact with local and national arts and policy leaders while working to realize their project goals. There are opportunities for field trips to regional arts and activist communities and regional and national meeting that are designed to enhance the individual's understanding of creative placemaking and public policy.

**Because public policies reflect the values and aspirations of a city, community, or national culture, we must increase the availability of rigorous academic scholarship on the impact of arts and creativity.**

**The Curb Public Scholars Program mentors emerging arts and cultural leaders in a dialogue around specific issues to generate answers to questions that decision makers may utilize to affect arts local, regional, and national policies.**



## 2019-2020 Curb Public Scholars Program – Should You Apply?

Curb Center awards a broad array of projects from all disciplines in pursuit of our goal to grow local, regional, and national arts-based public policy. Here are four examples from projects funded during the last few years:

- **“Farzana’s Journey: A Bangladesh story of Water, Land and People”** – An original children’s story written in Bengal and English featuring artists from the Vanderbilt and local community, highlighting water quality issues in Bangladesh and distributed to middle school-aged children in both countries.
- **‘Two Nashville’s’** – Interviews with Nashville’s homeless population culminating in a short film challenging the public assumption of homelessness while pointing to systemic solutions.
- **‘Changing Songs of Nashville: The Impact of Explosive Growth on the Local Bird Population’** – Using software created by the awardee, area bird song and migratory patterns are recorded and compared to previous records to examine the impact Nashville’s population and development explosion has on the bird species diversity and natural bird behavior.

When considering whether to submit your application, keep in mind the following:

- Intended primarily for advanced graduate students
- You must have the approval of your advisor to participate
- All proposals must have a creative component and a social justice or public policy component
- Projects should be designed with a one-year completion date in mind
- Projects should include a preliminary budget
- During the award period, Public Scholars are expected to regularly participate in the mentoring, training, guest seminars, and travel opportunities designed specifically for the Program.

Questions about the Curb Public Scholars Program and application process should be directed to Curb’s Associate Director of Public Policy, [Alexandre Frenette](#), or Curb’s Administrative Manager, [Kimberly Kane](#).



## 2019-2020 Curb Public Scholars Program – How to Apply

To be considered for a 2019-2020 Curb Public Scholar award, the following materials are **due to Kimberly Kane by Monday, April 8, 2019:**

1. A Letter of Interest which includes details about your degree program, advisor, and anticipated graduation date and addresses how participation in the Curb Public Scholars Program will enhance your professional development
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Completed Information Form with Advisor Signature
4. A 500-word essay, 3-minute video, or 8-page PowerPoint presentation which provides background for your project inspiration, details what the project encompasses, addresses who your public is and how your project could impact this group, and details how the proposed project compliments your thesis project work.
5. A 150-word preliminary deliverables timeline addressing the project goals and completion dates
6. A 150-word preliminary budget detailing how funds will be spent over the life of the project

Note that your project details, timeline, and budget do not have to be fully conceived for the application. As part of the process awardees will have access to project management training and frequent mentorship meetings designed to support a successful project outcome.

Applications are **due by/on Monday, April 8, 2019.**

All materials should be **combined into one pdf file** if possible.

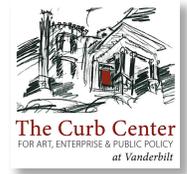
Materials can be **delivered or emailed to Kimberly Kane** at the Curb Center.

### What Happens After Your Application Has Been Submitted?

All applications will be reviewed by the Curb Center leadership team, with final decisions communicated to all applicants by April 24, 2019.

The 2019-2020 Public Scholar awardees will be invited to attend the May 2, 2019 Public Scholars Symposium so they can be introduced to the 2018-2019 cohort, Curb Leadership, and the Vanderbilt and community guests.

Questions about the Curb Public Scholars Program and application process should be directed to Curb's Associate Director of Public Policy, [Alexandre Frenette](#), or Curb's Administrative Manager, [Kimberly Kane](#).



## 2019-2020 Curb Public Scholars Program Information Form

*Complete and include this form in your application package*

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**VUID** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADUATE PROGRAM** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADVISOR SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**DGS SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_