



## White House Historical Association Announces Inaugural Class of Gerard B. Lambert Foundation Fellows in White House History

**May 28, 2026 (Washington, D.C.)** – The White House Historical Association today announced its selection of three Gerard B. Lambert Foundation Fellows in White House History. This year-long fellowship will unlock new research surrounding the White House and the American presidency. Each 2026-2027 fellow was selected based on the strength of their application materials, the quality of the project proposal, and clearly defined research goals.

Fellows will explore different topics that touch on the history of the White House and its inhabitants, such as the relationship between the press and first families, the creation and preservation of the American story told through the White House’s evolution as a national symbol, and 20<sup>th</sup> century accessibility accommodations in the White House, as well as public perceptions of disability.

“The Gerard B. Lambert Foundation Fellows in White House History program was established in 2025 through the generosity of the Gerard B. Lambert Foundation to support innovative research and scholarship on the White House,” said Dr. Matthew Costello, Chief Education Officer, Gerard B. Lambert Foundation Chair, and Director of the David M. Rubenstein National Center for White House History. “We are thrilled to congratulate our inaugural cohort and support three fascinating projects that explore the symbolism and cultural significance of the White House, as well as public perceptions of historical figures and wider efforts to shape their legacies.”

The Gerard B. Lambert Foundation’s relationship with the White House Historical Association extends to its founder, First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy. In 1961, “Rachel “Bunny” Mellon, founder of the Lambert Foundation, answered the call of President and Mrs. Kennedy to assist with the restoration of the White House and the design of the Rose Garden. The nation benefited from Mrs. Mellon’s service as a citizen volunteer and trusted advisor to Mrs. Kennedy.

2026-2027 Gerard B. Lambert Foundation Fellows in White House History:

- **Catherine Hutinett** is a Ph.D. candidate with the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri. She has worked as a research assistant at George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate, served on local historic preservation campaigns, and is the lead instructor for a summer course in Washington, D.C. on the history and politics of the beltway. Her dissertation, “Memory’s Mobility: Gender, Space, and the Making of American Nationhood,” explores how the American national story is formed through the connections between commemoration, nationalism, and public history at home and abroad. During her fellowship she will explore the inception of American national memory through domestic historic sites, its reproduction through internal expansion and the American borderlands, and its replication for the American national project overseas.

- **Dr. Shelby Landmark** is a disability and media studies scholar, disability and equestrian historian, and author. In 2023 she joined the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site as the Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow for Disability Representation at Historic Sites. Her research and exhibit design resulted in a permanent exhibit entitled "First Things First: FDR, Disability, & Access" challenging popular, ableist myths about President Franklin D. Roosevelt using nuanced, archival evidence. Dr. Landmark's work prioritizes accessibility for everyone. Her research will delve into the history of FDR, disability, how that interpretation has evolved over time, and how he navigated the White House with mobility devices while president.
- **Dr. Maxine Wagenhoffer** is the Director of the Hankey Center for the History of Women's Education and Assistant Professor of History at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. She received her Ph.D. and M.A. in History from The Ohio State University. She earned her B.A. in History from Rutgers University. The intersections of celebrity culture, political history, and women's history drive her research. She has a passion for writing and presenting accessible history and aims to share that interest with her students. Her project will explore the media presence of Alice Roosevelt Longworth, the famous First Daughter who maintained connections to the White House throughout her lifetime.

#### **About the White House Historical Association**

Founded in 1961 by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, the White House Historical Association is the nonprofit, nonpartisan organization entrusted with preserving and sharing the history of the White House. Supported entirely by private philanthropy and the sale of educational books and products, the Association reaches millions of students, teachers, and lifelong learners through research and scholarship initiatives, public programming, and the authoritative titles published by its independent press. Throughout each presidency, the Association works with the Offices of the First Lady and the White House Curator to acquire and preserve historic objects for the White House Fine and Decorative Arts Collection. The Association also operates The People's House: A White House Experience, a free, immersive, educational museum in Washington, D.C., which welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. To learn more about the White House Historical Association, please visit [WhiteHouseHistory.org](https://WhiteHouseHistory.org).

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