



2025 Application (Plain Text)

- Starred questions are required
- [Live form in AirTable](#)

Introductory Text:

Thank you so much for your interest in the National Public Housing Museum's Beauty Turner Academy of Oral History Training! This 11-week paid training is the entry point for becoming a member of the NPHM Oral History Collective. For more information, go to nphm.org/beauty-turner-academy.]

This application is **DUE APRIL 25**. Strong applicants will be contacted to schedule a 30 minute interview on a **rolling basis starting Mar. 28, so get your applications in as soon as you can!** We will notify the 8-12 member cohort of their admittance in mid-May, and the 2025 BTA Training will start during the week of June 9. The exact day of the week for training sessions will be determined collaboratively with the cohort.

This application will take between 1.5–2 hours to complete for most applicants. **Please aim to write a maximum of 8 sentences** for the short-answer questions.

This application is for new applicants; if you applied in a previous year, please contact Liú at lchen@nphm.org before proceeding.

To help you understand what we are looking for, [this document includes the qualities that we are looking for in BTA participants, along with our cohort selection rubric](#). The initial review of applications will be guided by a rubric, but it is not the end-all, be-all for selecting the cohort. The cohort will be selected based on a holistic review of each applicant, within the context of the applicant pool.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, you can reach the Oral History Manager, Liú Chen, at lchen@nphm.org.

Introductory Details & Demographics

Single demographics are not determining factors for selection into the cohort. Marginalized identities and experiences will be given additional ‘weight’ in the first review of application (ex, those with less access to formal education will be given a greater number of points in that category). The cohort will be selected based on a holistic view of each individual’s written application and interview.

1a. Name that you go by*

1b. Last Name*

2. Pronouns*

Multi-select options:

- They/them
- She/her
- He/him
- Other (include in Q19)

3. Year of birth*

Description: Anyone 16 and older can participate; we ask this question because we hope to have a diverse range of ages in the cohort. Those younger than 16 who are strongly interested in the program are encouraged to contact the Oral History Manager to discuss.

4. What city and state do you currently live in?*

5. How do you identify your race and/or ethnicity?*

6. Email*

7a. What is your lived experience with publicly-funded housing? *

Description: Some alternate terms for the options below.

Traditional public housing has also been known as “Section 9” or “the projects”

Section 8 is also referred to as the voucher system (ex, Housing Choice Vouchers, Project-based Vouchers)

Multi-select options:

- Current traditional public housing resident
- Current Section 8 resident
- Past traditional public housing resident
- Past Section 8 resident

- I have close family or loved ones who lived in public housing
- Other (share more details in Q7b)
- None

7b. Is there anything else you want to share about your relationship with public housing? [long text answer]

Description: For example, what city's public housing you lived in, what housing project you have lived experience with, what family or community members lived in public housing and where, or what type of voucher. If you do not have lived experience with public housing but have a different type of relationship to public housing that is meaningful to you, please describe it here.

8a. How would you describe your formal educational background?*

Description: This question is being asked for two reasons:

1. So that we can prepare for the range of backgrounds that folks will be coming from.
2. Our selection process gives greater priority to folks with fewer educational opportunities in their lives.

Single select:

- Some high school
- Finished high school/GED equivalent
- Some trade/vocational school
- Graduated trade/vocational school
- Some college
- Associate's Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- In or have completed graduate school
- Other (include in Q19)

8b. What other educational experiences have you had? What other educational experiences are you enrolled in or plan to pursue in the near future?

Description: Give us a simple list (ex, "three single day workshops in 2022; one week-long workshop in 2019"). This question is to help us understand your access to education on a broader level, as our selection process gives greater priority to folks with fewer educational opportunities.

[long text answer]

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Interests & Community Involvement

Please stick to a maximum of 8 sentences for the descriptive questions below.

9a. How are you currently involved in your community?*

Description: Please include a summary of your current community relationships and involvement, including any relationships to public housing communities and housing justice movements.

9b. How would you use your Beauty Turner Academy training to strengthen or build upon your current community relationships and involvement? *

[long text answer]

10a. What practices related to memory, history-keeping, personal archiving, story-telling, and knowledge-sharing do you currently engage in? How might the Beauty Turner Academy add to or otherwise impact this memory work practice?*

Description:

10b. Do you have any other creative and/or organizing practices that you'd like to share?

Description: We define creativity and organizing as broadly as possible. If something comes to mind, please share!

10c. How do you envision the Beauty Turner Academy adding to or otherwise impacting your above-named practices?*

11. Dream project using oral history and/or other memory-related practices*

Description: If you could conduct any oral history project that you wanted, what would it be? Tell us what you would hope to learn and/or document, what sorts of people you would interview, and why you would like to see their voices preserved in your oral history project. We won't be executing these projects during the program, but this question will help us understand your goals and perspective as a documentarian.

[long text answer]

Learning & Engagement

Description: *This is an 11-week program **driven by participant engagement**. The more time and energy you put into the program, the more you will ultimately get out of it. **One's ability to prioritize BTA and its related work will impact overall cohort selection.***

*In between the 2 hour sessions, we will have listening, journaling, and reading assignments that will help you reflect on and synthesize what you have learned (we estimate **1-3 hours/week** for your BTA-related studies in between sessions). While these assignments are not strictly required, they are **strongly recommended** in order to get the most out of the program.*

Please stick to a maximum of 8 sentences for the descriptive questions below.

12. What do you need from a mentor to help keep you engaged in and excited about the program?*

Description: If you don't know, that's okay! Think about mentors that you've had in your life and what they've done to keep you engaged with learning something new.

13. How would you describe your learning style in a virtual learning space (like Zoom)?*

Description: What is the easiest way for you to learn new information/skills, and what do you need to successfully learn new information/skills—particularly in a virtual, video-chat-based setting?

For example, are you a hands-on learner? Do you learn best from repetition? Do you utilize stim toys/devices to help you focus? For more information about learning styles, check out resources such as [this](#) or [this](#).

14. Relationship- and Community-Building*

How do you approach relationship- and community-building, especially in a digital-based program? Do you have any favorite activities or strategies?

15. Please tell us about your other summer 2025 commitments (ex., classes, work, care responsibilities, other programs, etc.). Can you feasibly commit to 1-3 hours of learning per week (outside of scheduled sessions)?*

Logistics

16. Training Cohort*

Description: The BTA training is held nearly every summer. Strong applicants who are not selected for this year's training will have priority for the next cohort. How does this impact your interest in participating?

- ☐ I only want and/or am able to participate in BTA in summer 2025
- ☐ I prefer summer 2025, but am still interested in 2026 if not selected
- ☐ I don't have a preference
- ☐ 2026 is actually better for my schedule

17. Training Schedule*

Description: Please share 2+ windows of at least 2 hours each, during which you would be able to meet, on a recurring (weekly) basis between June-August. Please include time zones! The more availability you can share the better, as we need to coordinate many people's schedules. We will follow up with the selected cohort to pick an exact time slot.

18. Interview Scheduling*

Description: There will be a short, ~ 30 minute interview with the Oral History Manager for all second round applicants. Please share any scheduling details that will help for this

step (ex, "Tuesdays and Thursdays work best," "after 5p CT," etc). Interviews will be scheduled on a rolling basis between Mar. 28 – May 9.

19a. Return Applicant: Please check this box if you are a returning applicant. Please include the year(s) that you have applied in the next question.

19b. Other notes

Description: Is there anything else that you would like us to know as we review your application?