



Summer 2026 Research Position

Walking Cinema: THE FILLMORE ECLIPSE

Apply Now!



Job Description

Position Title: Researcher

Reports To: Walking Cinema Director

Pay Rate: \$30/hr

Time Commitment: June 2026 - August 2026, Average 15 hr/wk

Position Type: Part-time, non-exempt employee

Walking Cinema (www.walkingcinema.org) is an innovative storytelling studio working on experimental audio and theatrical projects. We focus on immersive stories related to urban history, social justice, and the humanities. For the past five years, we have been working within San Francisco's Fillmore neighborhood on diverse, immersive storytelling projects that relate to the area's rich history and evolving future. This research position will involve looking deeper into the history of a particular section of the Fillmore District to inform a new script being created for the immersive theater show, "[The Fillmore Eclipse](#)." The project is underwritten through grants from the San Francisco Foundation and is fiscally sponsored by Z Space.

We are looking to hire an individual with a background in journalism to examine archives, conduct interviews, perform on-site investigations, and dig deeper into the background of a specific area of the Fillmore where an African American Mall was to be built in the 1970's. Similar to the Japantown Mall, this Black-themed mall was designed to celebrate culture and attract tourists to the area. The Mall was never built and we want to research why this happened and, generally, what happened in the neighborhood over the past 50 years with respect to rebuilding the Black-owned businesses and African American culture that was lost due to Redevelopment. This research will inform the writing of a new script for the immersive theater show "The Fillmore Eclipse" which ran in the neighborhood in 2024 through 14 sold-out performances. It's an opportunity to look deeper into San Francisco's complicated housing and race history, potentially gathering new insights into the intersection of real estate, cultural preservation, and city policy. This job will allow you to work closely with Michael Epstein, founder of Walking Cinema, and co-director of the Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism's Experiential Journalism Lab. You will also be meeting with theatrical director [Michael French](#) to discuss findings and relate them to the overall story.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

There is no application form. To apply, please send your resume and a cover letter of no more than 500 words to michael@walkingcinema.org with the subject line "Research Position." In your cover letter, please tell us why you're interested in working on this project with Walking Cinema and share any relevant experience with the subject.

At Walking Cinema, we appreciate when collaborators bring their diverse perspectives to our process. We invite you to share any parts of your life, experiences or identity that inform how you approach your journalism.

Please also share no more than two published or broadcast clips.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 10th, 2026 (Apply early for preferential consideration)

Key Project Dates:

Position Filled: June 20, 2026

Training: Week of June 22, 2026

Research: July and August 2026

Position Requirements:

- Strong interview skills including on-the-street interviews, phone/zoom, and studio interviews. Able to make interviewees feel at ease while digging deep for information
- Able to take clear, detailed notes on readings, interviews, and observations. Store in shared drive and read out in meeting
- Lives in the Bay Area
- Problem-solving skills, ability to think on your feet
- Strong archival research skills, using multiple methods to track down information (in archives, social networking, and online research)
- Ability to gather factual information and relate it to a story's themes, characters, and time period.

Position Responsibilities:

- Develop and refine research questions.

- Report weekly on findings and new questions to pursue.
- Work closely with the theatrical director and artistic director to connect research to story points in the immersive show.
- Inform the development of a Creative Brief and Project Proposal for the Remount of the Fillmore Eclipse.
- Interview sources familiar with the story, using professional audio equipment supplied by the project team.
- Perform archival, online, and in person research to gather factual information about the neighborhood
- Transport yourself to interview sites, archives, and the neighborhood of focus on a regular basis.

Preferred Knowledge, Skills, and Experience:

- 2-6 years experience developing non-fiction stories for media outlets, with several bylines.
- Interest in history, music, and social justice
- Work independently and proactively
- Juggling multiple tasks and follow-through
- Positive, quick and proactive problem solver

Other Characteristics:

- Self-driven
- Personable
- Detail-oriented, efficient
- Creates an environment of ease, enthusiasm, and workability.
- Punctual, considerate and pragmatic time-management skills.
- Strong professional integrity and an ability to maintain a good sense of humor and enthusiasm with a flexible attitude.