

Graham Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Graham Foundation Announces 2026 Carter Manny Awards

Celebrating three decades of support for emerging scholars expanding the discourse of architecture and the built environment

Chicago, October 13, 2026—The Graham Foundation is honored to announce the 2026 Carter Manny Awards supporting PhD candidates completing outstanding doctoral dissertations in architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society. Three decades after its founding in 1996, this annual program remains dedicated to architectural scholarship by recognizing emerging scholars whose work promises to challenge and reshape contemporary discourse and impact the field at large. Each year, the program grants two awards: a \$25,000 Writing Award and a \$20,000 Research Award.

The 2026 Carter Manny Writing Award is awarded to **Yeo-Jin (Katerina) Bong** of the University of Toronto's John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, whose dissertation, "Tracing Layers: Building Beneath the Surface in the Italian Apennines, 1527–1650," investigates how early modern geo-architects in the Papal States transformed the challenges of unstable terrain—collapsing foundations, shifting rivers, and seismic soils—into a new empirical and representational practice that treated the ground itself as a site of design, where visualizing instability became both a method of securing the stability of the ground and the papacy's own institutional and theological permanence.

The 2026 Carter Manny Research Award is awarded to **Melina Gooray** of Northwestern University's Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Art History, whose dissertation, "My Body-Home: Material Shifts in Architecture and West Indian Diasporic Formations," explores how material shifts in architecture reveal the afterlives of colonialism and the ways West Indian diasporic subjects, through their bodies, inhabit and shape space as a living archive of migration.

Four citations of special recognition are awarded to **Lucia Galaretto** (Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation), **Foivos Geralis** (Princeton University, School of Architecture), **Piergianna Mazzocca** (Cornell University, College of Architecture, Art, and Planning), and **Cecilia Resende Santos** (Columbia University, Department of Art History and Archaeology).

The jury comprised Anna Goodman, PhD, associate professor of architecture at Portland State University and a 2014 recipient of the award; Jacobé Huet, PhD, assistant professor of art history at the University of Chicago; and Vladimir Kulić, PhD, professor of architecture at Iowa State University and a 2007 citation recipient.

“As we celebrate 30 years of the Carter Manny Award, it is especially exciting to recognize a new generation of scholars whose work is expanding how we understand architecture and the built environment,” says Graham Foundation director Sarah Herda. “The award has a remarkable history of supporting emerging scholars who have gone on to become leading voices in architectural culture. We look forward to seeing how this year’s recipients will shape the field in the years ahead.”

The Carter Manny Award program is named for architect Carter H. Manny (1918–2017) in recognition of his contributions to the Graham Foundation as founding trustee in 1956, director from 1971–93, and director emeritus. Since 1996, the program has granted 49 awards and 153 citations representing over \$1 million in support of this important student work.

Learn more about the history of the award and browse a selection of past winners on the Foundation’s [website](#).

2026 CARTER MANNY AWARDS

WRITING AWARD

Yeo-Jin (Katerina) Bong

“Tracing Layers: Building Beneath the Surface in the Italian Apennines, 1527–1650,”
University of Toronto, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design
[learn more](#)

RESEARCH AWARD

Melina Gooray

“My Body-Home: Material Shifts in Architecture and West Indian Diasporic Formations”
Northwestern University, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Art History
[learn more](#)

CITATIONS OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION

RESEARCH CITATIONS

Lucia Galaretto

Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

“The Art of Reform: Architecture, Finance, and the Politics of Valuation in the Spanish Colonial Andes, 1740–1790” explores the paradoxical role of Indigenous forms in the architecture and decorative arts of the late Spanish Empire, focusing on the new institutional programs, political allegories, and appraisal regulations that served as the linchpins of the Bourbon Reforms.

Foivos Geralis

Princeton University, School of Architecture, Joint PhD in Architecture and Interdisciplinary Humanities

“Climatocracy: How Museums Took Control of the ‘World’” examines how, from the 1960s onward, the architecture of the encyclopedic museum became a climatic and epistemic instrument of global governance, as environmental control, preventive conservation, and the geopolitics of culture converged to produce new regimes of institutional reason and cultural stewardship.

Piergianna Mazzocca

Cornell University, College of Architecture, Art, and Planning, Department of Architecture, History of Architecture and Urban Development Program

“Architectures of Extraction: Disease Eradication and the Sanitary Integration of the Americas” traces the architectural history of disease eradication and resource extraction in Venezuela during the first half of the twentieth century by arguing that architectural techniques and spatial management shaped the doctrine of disease eradication while aligning its goals with those of capitalist extractivism and colonial relations of race and labor across the American hemisphere.

Cecilia Resende Santos

Columbia University, Department of Art History and Archaeology

“Building the Coffee Cycle: Infrastructure, Architecture, and Landscapes in Brazil, c. 1880–1930” examines how the Brazilian built environment shaped, and was shaped by, the expansion of coffee cultivation around the turn of the twentieth century, by studying the design of plantations, workers’ settlements, research institutes, warehouses, and exchanges.

[Learn more about the Citations of Special Recognition](#)

ABOUT THE GRAHAM FOUNDATION

Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts fosters the development and exchange of diverse and challenging ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society. The Graham realizes this vision through making project-based grants to individuals and organizations, and by producing exhibitions, events, and publications.

The Graham Foundation was created by a bequest from Ernest R. Graham (1866–1936), a prominent Chicago architect and protégé of Daniel Burnham.

UPCOMING GRANT DEADLINES

2027 Carter Manny Award: application due November 15, 2026

Publication Award in Contemporary Architecture (PACA): November 30, 2026

2027 Grants to Organizations: application available January 15, 2027; due February 25, 2027

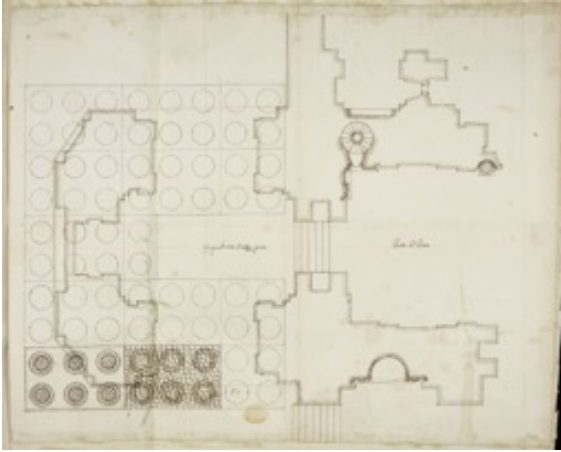
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In addition to the high-resolution images that are available on the press section of the Foundation's website, alternate images from the grantee project pages may be available. To access the [press section](#), or to request any other images, email abarrett@grahamfoundation.org for the login information.



Pietro Paolo Drei, "Plan of the foundation beneath the southern portion of the façade and bell tower," 1645. Pen and brown ink, 38 x 48 cm. The British Library, London, map 6, tab 3, no. 3. From the Writing Award dissertation, "Tracing Layers: Building Beneath the Surface in the Italian Apennines, 1527–1650," by Yeo-Jin (Katerina) Bong (University of Toronto)



Antonio da Sangallo the Younger, "Pozzo di San Patrizio." Orvieto. Photo: Katerina Bong. From the Writing Award dissertation, "Tracing Layers: Building Beneath the Surface in the Italian Apennines, 1527–1650," by Yeo-Jin (Katerina) Bong (University of Toronto)



Melina Gooray, "View of Lumber En Route Down Pomeroon River," Essequibo, Guyana, 2016. Digital photograph. Courtesy Melina Gooray. From the Research Award dissertation, "My Body-Home: Material Shifts in Architecture and West Indian Diasporic Formations," by Melina Gooray (Northwestern University)



Melina Gooray, "View of Rocky 'Piggy' House," Essequibo, Guyana, 2016. Digital photograph. Courtesy Melina Gooray. From the Research Award dissertation, "My Body-Home: Material Shifts in Architecture and West Indian Diasporic Formations," by Melina Gooray (Northwestern University)