



Botany in Action (BIA) Fellowship 2012 Call for Proposals

(phipps.conservatory.org/project-green-heart/botany-in-action
and PhippsBotanyinAction.org)

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens (phipps.conservatory.org)

The BIA Fellowship program at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens fosters the development of a next generation of plant-based scientists who are committed, first, to excellent research, and second, to educational outreach. Open to PhD students enrolled at US graduate institutions and conducting plant-based scientific field research, the BIA program provides each Fellow with: 1) \$3,000 for use towards field research and related expenses at sites in the US or abroad (including expenses for travel, food, housing, laboratory supplies, and to return research findings to the research host community), 2) an all-expenses paid trip to Phipps in Pittsburgh, PA, to engage in science outreach training and opportunities to translate and communicate his or her research to non-scientific, public audiences through written, visual, oral and/or multimedia means, and 3) subsequent opportunities to communicate his or her research to public audiences through Phipps classes, programs, newsletters, exhibits onsite and online, and other outreach venues.

Plant-Based Science Research Priorities (listed in no particular order):*

- Ethnobotany, with special interest in medicinal plants;
- Diversity and conservation, particularly in regional (southwest Pennsylvania and tri-state area) and tropical forests;
- Landscape and brownfield restoration, particularly in plant-based ecosystem services;
- Sustainable landscapes.

***For 2012, special consideration will be given to research in the following areas (listed in no particular order):**

- Medicinal plants;
- Plant-based ecosystem services for landscape and brownfield restoration;
- Sustainable landscapes in the US, particularly applicable to the southwest Pennsylvania and tri-state area.

Duration of Funding. A BIA Fellowship consists of one year of support for research funding and educational outreach, as well as life-long membership in a growing network of plant-based scientists connecting their research to the public. However, BIA Fellows are encouraged to re-apply to the program for continued funding for as many years as they require for completion of their dissertation research. Note: funding for subsequent years depends on funding availability, Fellow's use of funding from prior year, and Fellow's proven commitment to furthering his or her science educational outreach.

Proposal Review. Proposals are reviewed by members of Phipps' Research/Botany in Action Task Force and Science Advisory Committee. Reviewers are either active scientists or laypersons with strong knowledge of or interest in botany, plant conservation, sustainable landscapes, and communicating science to the public.

Proposal Deadline. All proposal materials must be received by 11:59 pm, January 20, 2012.

Timeline. BIA Fellows will be announced in late February and funding disbursed in early March, 2012. Fellows will be contacted shortly thereafter for scheduling of communication training and outreach opportunities.

BIA Fellowship Mission, Application Components and Instructions

Mission: The Botany in Action Fellowship develops new, science-based plant knowledge and chronicles traditional knowledge of plants for use in growing a greener world. BIA promotes interactive scientific education about the importance of plants, biodiversity, and sustainable landscapes for human well-being.

Two Abstracts. The application must contain TWO abstracts (250-WORD MAXIMUM LIMIT EACH) of the proposed research. The first abstract should be written as a scientifically-based abstract that would normally accompany any grant proposal. The second should be written in a way that conveys the research's general importance to those with limited scientific backgrounds.

Proposal Body and Literature Cited. The proposal must clearly align with the mission of BIA, and the body of the proposal should clearly outline the objectives, questions and/or hypotheses addressed by the proposed research. The proposal should make a compelling case for the scientific importance of the research, and should convince reviewers that the applicant understands the relevant literature and appropriate methodologies to successfully complete and publish the results of the proposed research. In addition, the proposal should describe the broader implications of the proposed research in terms that a layperson could understand and appreciate (e.g., conservation importance, importance for medicinal botany, etc.), and convince reviewers that the applicant is committed to connecting his or her work to non-scientific audiences through alternative forms of communication (e.g. photographic art exhibit, online blog, publication in an outreach journal or popular magazine, or presentations to K-12 classrooms). **THE PROPOSAL BODY IS LIMITED TO SIX DOUBLE-SPACED PAGES;** longer proposals will not be accepted. A literature cited section should immediately follow the body of the proposal; use names, not numbers, when citing in the proposal (e.g., Smith 2000).

Curriculum Vitae. The CV should include all relevant information including education, research, publications, grants received or pending, and presentations. Be sure to include relevant non-academic and synergistic experiences, such as work for conservation non-profits or government agencies, and significant outreach and educational activities.

Two Recommendations. Two letters of recommendation are required. One should be from the applicant's research advisor and one from a person who has strong knowledge of the applicant's motivation to communicate scientific knowledge to non-scientific audiences.

Mode of Submission. The application package must be saved as a single PDF file containing all of the required components detailed above, sans recommendations. A proposal package consisting of multiple separate files will be returned. The file name should start with the applicant's last name, followed by the term 'BIA', funding year pursued, and 'App' (e.g. Smith_BIA_2011_App.pdf). Each recommendation letter must be sent directly from the recommender, and should be saved as a PDF file, the name of which should start with the applicant's last name, followed by the terms 'BIA', funding year pursued, 'Rec', and recommender's last name (e.g. Smith_BIA_2011_Rec_McGuire.pdf). All application materials should be emailed to Molly Steinwald at msteinwald@phipps.conservatory.org.

Questions? Contact Molly Steinwald, Director of Science Education at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, at msteinwald@phipps.conservatory.org, 412-441-4442 ext. 3804, or 1 Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Phipps' mission is to inspire and educate visitors with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and worldwide biodiversity through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse.