

Tyler Monaghan  
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Chicago IL 60626-2329

September 18, 2018

Chicago History Museum  
1601 North Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60614-6038

Dear Lisa Oppenheim,

I am writing today to express my keen interest in the open History Fair Program Specialist position that was shared with me by Dr. Kyle Roberts. As a former certified social studies teacher in Chicago Public Schools and a current student in Loyola University Chicago's Master's in Digital Humanities program, I am confident that my skill set and experiences make me an excellent candidate for this position.

As a teacher in a school for students who had dropped out of traditional public schools, data-driven instruction and a focus on foundational literacy strategies were hallmarks of my pedagogical practice. I created and delivered lesson plans that required careful research with primary and secondary source documents both in their creation and in the objectives they asked students to reach. Above all, learning to connect with and motivate students with a wide range of ability levels and interests was critical to my success as a teacher.

The Digital Humanities program at Loyola University Chicago has allowed me to continue honing my research and writing skills while working with a wider variety of archival sources and audiences. As part of my graduate fellowship, I have helped plan and implement new procedures and programs at Loyola's Center for Textual Studies and Digital Humanities (such as the "Humanities Datebook" weekly email newsletter and a spreadsheet-based system for tracking upcoming events and their publicity). I have also had the opportunity to work alongside faculty on ongoing research projects, provide instructional support in undergraduate classrooms, design and administer websites, create pedagogical videos and workshops, and learn to use a wide range of digital tools and platforms.

Though not every young person in Chicagoland will become a professional historian, each can learn to make meaningful and personal connections to history. Doing so has the power to enrich their understanding of our great city and the world around them, ultimately equipping them to identify, understand, and work to correct the ongoing inequities and injustices in our society.

I would be delighted to speak with you to learn more about the History Fair Program Specialist position. It would be a privilege to be part of the team at the Chicago History Museum and I would be very interested in future opportunities for advancement within. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email or phone to schedule an interview or if I can answer any questions about my application materials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Monaghan", with a stylized, flowing script.

Tyler Monaghan  
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