

# Call for Proposals

## 2024 Carolina Record Shop Creative Residency Program

### About the Residency

Founded in 2020, the **Carolina Record Shop Creative Residency Program** provides an annual opportunity for artists in Buncombe County to create new, research-driven creative work using the historic resources of **Buncombe County Special Collections** (BCSC) as source material and/or inspiration, and to present their work in the Carolina Record Shop, a dedicated exhibition space in the BCSC reading room.

Projects will be selected by how well they meet the following goals of the Carolina Record Shop:

- offer new, diverse perspectives on our shared history,
- identify and address gaps and/or amplify narratives that are historically underrepresented in our collection, and
- educate and inspire non-traditional users of archives and special collections to engage with the collection in new ways.

Creative practitioners ages 18 and up, based in Buncombe County, working in any medium (including visual arts, sound/music, dance/performance, creative writing, social practice-based art, or any combination of disciplines) are invited to apply. Projects of any discipline should include a visual component that makes use of the Carolina Record Shop display area.

### Process and Products

Residents will receive research support from Special Collections staff to identify resources such as digital databases, historic periodicals, or primary source material to inform the creative project.

Research will be self-paced; we anticipate approximately one day per week/28 hours per month in the library or on project-related work during the research-intensive phase of the project. *Please note that the library offers space for research, exhibition, public events, and breaks (staff break room), but does not offer additional studio/production space nor living accommodations.*

Products of the residency will include:

1. An exhibition which will be installed in the Carolina Record Shop space.
2. An exhibition opening event.
3. A public program (such as a talk or workshop).
4. Documentation of the project, which may include digital components (on social media, the BCSC blog, and/or elsewhere) and physical output (such as the project archive, artistic output, or collection items created, purchased, or donated, depending on the project).

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## Timeline

**November 27:** Application materials due by midnight.

**December 19:** Creative resident is selected and all applicants receive notification.

**January-April 2024:** Creative resident is publicly announced and begins performing self-paced research in Special Collections. Resident documents research process for inclusion in social media/blog and permanent archives. During any open hours, BCSC Librarians provide in-depth research support.

**March 2024:** BCSC staff works with resident to finalize marketing materials, exhibition opening date, and public program date(s).

**April 2024:** Exhibition opens.

**April-June 2024:** At least one public program (such as a talk or workshop) to be held during this window, developed and scheduled in coordination with BCSC staff.

## Proposal

All proposals must be submitted electronically by midnight on November 27, 2023.

Please email your proposal to [packnc@buncombecounty.org](mailto:packnc@buncombecounty.org) with a subject line that contains both **your name** and the phrase **2024 Carolina Record Shop Proposal**, e.g. *Jane Doe, 2024 Carolina Record Shop Proposal*. (This helps our email filters sort proposals into the correct category.)

Each proposal should include the following:

- 1-2 paragraph project proposal (text in body of email)
- 1-paragraph artist biography (text in body of email)
- 3-5 samples of recent work (images in JPG or PNG format; audio or video as links to Vimeo, YouTube, Internet Archive, Soundcloud, etc.)
- 1-2 page resume or CV (PDF attachment)

Project proposals should be 1-2 paragraphs describing the format and scope of the project, how Special Collections resources will be used, how you plan to engage members of the public, and any special requirements.

Artist biographies should be brief, not more than 1 paragraph, and should help us understand your context, approach, and (if applicable) any existing knowledge or past experience working creatively with historic materials.

*We strongly encourage all applicants to visit Special Collections in advance of submitting a proposal to get a sense of the space and resources available.* BCSC is open Tue-Fri 10-6 and Saturdays 10-5.

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## Stipend

The 2024 Creative Resident will receive a stipend in the amount of \$3,000 (in installments to be issued at the beginning, midpoint, and end of the project) with an additional amount of up to \$500 reimbursable for supplies or materials costs.

*The 2024 Creative Residency is made possible in part by the Trust Fund for Buncombe County Public Libraries.*



## About Buncombe County Special Collections

The Buncombe County Special Collections Library (formerly known as the North Carolina Room) is a medium-sized archival facility located on the lower level of Pack Memorial Library in Downtown Asheville. Buncombe County Special Collections specializes in the social, cultural, and natural history of Asheville, Buncombe County, and Western North Carolina.

Our mission is to actively collect, preserve, promote, and provide equal access to the history of Asheville, Buncombe County, and the surrounding area. We are proud of our historic resources and are committed to preserving them for the future, through preservation, digitization, and decreasing barriers to public access.

Our collections include thousands of unique historical records including photographs, maps, books, and other materials that provide researchers the resources they need to understand and interpret the history of Western North Carolina. The collection is not restricted to Buncombe County Public Library card holders; anyone can visit and utilize the resources of the Buncombe County Special Collections Library.

The collection is especially rich in photographs of Downtown Asheville and other commercial, social, and residential districts, as well as tourist attractions like the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Many of the photos in the collection are attributed to important photographers including Thomas H. Lindsey, George Masa, and Andrea Clark.

More information about BCSC can be found on our website:  
<https://specialcollections.buncombecounty.org/>

**If you have further questions, including accessibility needs or requests relating to the application process, please contact the BCSC team at 828-250-4740, email us at [packnc@buncombecounty.org](mailto:packnc@buncombecounty.org), or visit us in person in the lower level of Pack Memorial Library, Tue-Fri 10-6 or Saturdays 10-5.**