

Graham Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Graham Foundation Announces 2025 Carter Manny Awards

Continuing nearly three decades of support for emerging scholars working to expand the discourse of architecture and the built environment

Chicago, November 12, 2025—The Graham Foundation is honored to announce the 2025 Carter Manny Awards for dissertations and research by doctoral candidates. Established in 1996, the program supports work that contributes to new narratives in contemporary understanding of architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society.

The winner of the 2025 Carter Manny Writing Award is **Dean Michel**, Florida State University, Department of History, and the winner of the 2025 Carter Manny Research Award is **Anna Renken**, University of Toronto, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. These projects, along with five citations of special recognition, were selected by an external panel of scholars. The Writing Award includes a grant of \$25,000 and the Research Award includes \$20,000.

Michel's dissertation, "A Watery Grave in the Desert: Termination, Survivance, and the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe," explores how the Chemehuevi's livable land was destroyed by the United States federal government's construction of the Parker Dam on the Colorado River between Arizona and California in 1938, forcing a reckoning of colonial perceptions of land, value, and Indigenous sovereignty.

Renken's dissertation, "Ecological Mediations: Design with Environmental Science and Technology in Late Twentieth-Century North America," examines how architects who led laboratories at the Universities of Illinois, Southern California, and Texas developed ecological approaches through close engagement with science and technology in the period from the 1970s to the 1990s, constituting an important yet under-studied chapter in the history of environmental design.

The Carter Manny Award program—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 as director emeritus—has granted 47 awards and 149 citations representing over \$1 million in support of this important student work since its inception in 1996.

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

2025 CARTER MANNY AWARDS

WRITING AWARD

Dean Michel

“A Watery Grave in the Desert: Termination, Survivance, and the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe”

Florida State University, Department of History

[learn more](#)

RESEARCH AWARD

Anna Renken

“Ecological Mediations: Design with Environmental Science and Technology in Late Twentieth-Century North America”

University of Toronto, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design

[learn more](#)

CITATIONS OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION

WRITING CITATIONS

Carrie Gammell

“Enclosing the American Frontier: Residential Architecture, Land Claims, and Mortgage Investments (1862–1934)”

University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Architecture and Urban Design

This dissertation investigates how, long before New Deal programs and redlining practices, houses and homes not only embodied the United States’ project of economic and social enclosure but also served as material intermediaries between commons and property, dispossession and accumulation, country and city.

M.C. Overholt

“Sex Under Construction: Architecture, Sexual Science, and Queer Environments in the Twentieth-Century American City”

University of Pennsylvania, Weitzman School of Design

This dissertation examines how environmental conceptions of human sexual and gendered subjectivity—emerging from behavioral science and its peripheries—shaped architectural theory and practice in the United States.

Eliza Pertigkiozoglou

“Programmed Collaboration: Work Relationships in Software for Building Design, 1970–90”

McGill University, Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture

Writing a history of architectural practice through and as software history, this dissertation examines how databases of building design software structured cross-professional collaboration in architecture and construction, from office automation systems in the 1970s to commercial design software in the 1980s.

RESEARCH CITATIONS

Dante Furioso

“Hammer and Machete: The Plantation in the Nineteenth-Century Urbanization of Havana”
Princeton University, History and Theory of Architecture, School of Architecture

This dissertation reveals how the architecture of Havana’s nineteenth-century urbanization—including the labor, material flows, techniques of construction, and organization of new professional categories—were all deeply entwined with the developments, aspirations, and fears that grew out of Cuba’s system of racialized plantation slavery.

Ruslana Lichtzier

“Insurgent Rendering: Visual and Architectural Practices toward Indigenous Sovereignty in the Naqab Desert”

Northwestern University, Department of Art History

Critically examining the crisis of visibility and existence imposed by Israel on al-Araqib—an “unrecognized” Bedouin village in the Naqab—this dissertation demonstrates how collaborations between its Palestinian residents and Jewish Israelis transform visual and spatial technologies of colonial domination into insurgent tools that assert Indigenous presence and history while materializing decolonial futurity.

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

2026 Carter Manny Award: application due November 15, 2025

2026 Grants to Organizations: application available January 15, 2026; due February 25, 2026

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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.



Parker Dam, Northeast of Parker, Arizona, 2023. Digital photograph. Photo: Dean Michel. From the 2025 Carter Manny Writing Award dissertation, "A Watery Grave in the Desert: Termination, Survivance, and the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe," by Dean Michel (Florida State University, Department of History)



Photographer Unknown, *Ralph Knowles and students with a heliodon (a machine simulating the movement of the sun)*, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, ca. 1980. Black and white photograph. Courtesy the Estate of Ralph Knowles. From the 2025 Carter Manny Research Award dissertation, "Ecological Mediations: Design with Environmental Science and Technology in Late Twentieth-Century North America," by Anna Renken (University of Toronto, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design)