

CHAT 2023 Research Grant

CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) is pleased to announce the open call for applications for the CHAT 2023 Research Grant, which encourages researchers to illustrate fresh perspectives on the industrial textile history of Hong Kong and beyond.

Applicants are requested to conduct independent research on the subjects based on CHAT's collection and related to Hong Kong's textile industry from transregional and/or cross-cultural perspectives that can highlight new narratives. The research may eventually be presented in an exhibition at The D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery and thus applicants should consider the possibility of delivery to general audiences.

Application Process

Applicants are required to submit a Proposal via email to heritage@mill6chat.org with the subject title of CHAT Research Grant Proposal. The Proposal should include

- (i) a summary of proposed research topic and scope (minimum 500 words), research objectives, methodology and schedule, together with
- (ii) a CV (A4, max 2 pages),
- (iii) past published papers, indicating the most significant over the last 5 years, and
- (iv) names and contacts of two referees, who are familiar with your research

Applicants are expected to view CHAT exhibitions and website as well as read our past publications to understand our institutional context and mission before submitting the proposal. In addition, applicants should be sensitive to and be able to leverage the unique geographic, historic and social context of Hong Kong. The work should be original in scope and have an impact on further research or enquiry.

The copyright belongs to the author of the paper, however, CHAT has priority in publishing the outcome of research grant on CHAT's online/off-line platforms.

The successful applicant is entitled to receive a HK\$60,000 (Hong Kong Dollars Sixty Thousand) research grant for completing a Research Paper and Presentation to CHAT's appointed jury by the end of March, 2024. The payment terms of the research grant will be divided into 2 phases, with 70% at the time of award and the remaining 30% to be paid at the completion for the Research Paper and Presentation in March 2024.

The successful applicant will conduct research independently and be granted access, at the discretion of CHAT, to the archival documents, oral history, objects and materials in CHAT's collection for research purposes. It is expected that the grantee will be self-sufficient and can work alone.

CHAT may assist with connecting and introducing with local and external parties, organisations and archives on the behalf of successful participant, however, CHAT will not be responsible for language translation for the research.

The grantee is encouraged and may elect to host, with the support of CHAT, public programmes related to their research, including but not limited to talks, workshops, screenings, performances and more.

Who Should Apply:

Independent scholars, researchers, archivists, writers and postgraduate students with solid experience and research skills who are able to pursue independent study. A record of peer reviewed publications would be preferred.

Selection will be conducted by CHAT's assigned scholars, professional researchers as well as CHAT's curatorial team. The decision by CHAT will be final on the award. Candidates who have not been selected will be informed accordingly.

Please refer to CHAT's 2021 grantee Johanna von Pezold (PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Hong Kong)'s project on CHAT's [website](#).

Key Deliverables:

This research grant is neither for artistic research nor development. The expected deliverables are formal research paper equipped with reference images with captions, footnotes and bibliography. The Research Paper should be delivered in an electronic and physical copy to CHAT's office. The paper should be written in English, between 8,000 words and 12,000 words (including footnotes, captions) and accompanied with relevant visuals and references. We suggest a double-spaced document with at least a 12-point font in Times New Roman. Abidance to the Harvard Referencing system would be required.

Supplementary Deliverables:

Creative endeavours in addition to the Research Paper are optional, including but not limited to visual arts, performances and time-based media. However, such pursuits shall remain and only be recognised as supplementary and secondary to the Research Paper.

Key Milestones:

1. Submission of Proposal – 31 January 2023, 23:59 HKT (UTC+8)
2. Interview Panel – February 2023
3. Announcement of Grant Results – March 2023
4. Submission of First Draft – 30 November, 2023
5. Submission of Research Paper – 15 March, 2024
6. Presentation of Research Paper to CHAT's panel – End of March, 2024

For further enquiries, please email heritage@mill6chat.org

About CHAT

CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) is an art centre and part of the heritage conservation project located at The Mills, the former cotton-spinning mills of Nan Fung Textiles in Tsuen Wan. Through its multifaceted curated programmes, which include exhibitions and co-learning programmes, CHAT aims to weave creative experiences for all.

CHAT's Vision

In the state of geo-political turmoil in the 1950s Asia Pacific, the textile industry in Hong Kong sowed its seed and achieved a rapid development throughout the latter half of the twentieth century. Today, CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) represents a new place of new beginnings in the next phase of Hong Kong and Asia's textile arts development and innovation.

Paying homage to the progressive energy of Hong Kong's textile industry in the past and taking advantage of the multiple meanings associated with plain cotton yarn, CHAT will tell the stories of Hong Kong's textile industrial history and beyond, challenge the conventional meanings of textile arts and present myriad interpretations of textile material and subject matters. We invite our visitors to experience the spirit of the innovative legacy of Hong Kong's textile industry and engage in new dialogues and inspirational journeys that interweave contemporary art, design, heritage and community.