

ROBB TRUST

ANNUAL UNDERWRITING CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2026

Scholarly Research, Projects, Events, Performances, Educational Programs

Supporting the study, propagation, production, and/or performance of the music of John Donald Robb and embodying Robb's commitment to education and music of the U.S. Southwest

ABOUT

The UNM John Donald Robb Musical Trust provides funding for scholarly research, projects, educational programs, events, and/or performances that align with the Trust's Mission and Vision. **Successful grant proposals will be underwritten for up to \$5,000** to be disbursed in two separate payments, at the discretion of the Robb Trust.

APPLY

- Application deadline: April 30, 2026
- Submit completed proposal via email to: unmrobbtrust@unm.edu
- Successful grantees will be notified by: May 15, 2026

Note: Grants are not renewable. Successful recipients may re-apply for Robb Underwriting for a new project proposal following a one-year hiatus. Past applicants that have not received funding are encouraged to reapply.

PROPOSAL CRITERIA

Proposals may be made by individuals or organizations. Scholarly research, projects, educational programs, events and/or performances MUST use materials from the John Donald Robb Collections housed in the Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections (CSWR) and must accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

1. Promote the study, propagation, production, and/or performance of the music of John Donald Robb;
2. Embody John Donald Robb's commitment to education and to advance the understanding of music of the U.S. Southwest.

Proposals will be evaluated based on how closely the proposed project aligns with the above objectives. Additional evaluation criteria include:

Quality and clarity of the:

1. Project description
2. Overall project plan
3. Project budget (expenses and income, including other secured or potential sources of funding)
4. Evaluation methods
5. Proposed outcome and/or impact

Note: Applicants proposing the creation of a newly composed work utilizing Robb's collections should instead direct their inquiry to the UNM Robb Commission Committee.

PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO

- Projects not previously funded by this program
- Projects with a significant local community engagement / regional broad impact / new pedagogical approaches
- Projects engaging with archival sources in novel, critical, and creative ways

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

- All documentation must be typed and single spaced
- Do not include materials other than those requested at this time
- Incomplete applications and late submissions will not be considered
- Provide all application materials below in the order listed, using the headings provided

1. **Cover letter** – one page max, signed by the applicant/organizational representative, providing the following:
 - Date of application
 - Legal name of organization/individual to which underwriting would be paid
 - Project title and brief project description
 - Primary contact person and title
 - Address
 - Primary phone number
 - Website (if applicable)
 - E-mail address
 - Previous applications: Have you applied to this funding opportunity before? Disclose any previous experience with this underwriting program
2. **Project description** (max 2000 words) providing the following:
 - Project title, goals, objectives, and scope (max 500 words)
 - Project activities and archival material: include planned activities and a description of how the project will incorporate Robb archival material (max 500 words)
 - Timeline: include start and end dates for the entire project and approximate dates of project activities (max 200 words)
 - Audience: describe who the project will serve and how? (max 200 words)
 - Evaluation methods/tools: explain how the success of activities/phases/overall project will be measured and the evaluation tools that will be utilized (max 300 words)
 - Expected outcomes and impact (max 300 words)
3. **UNM CSWR John Donald Robb Archive Information** – one page max
 - Provide detailed information about the specific Robb archival collection(s) you plan to consult for your project, including 1-2 concrete examples that interest you. *You may end up using other materials, but we are interested in what you discover and/or plan to use via a preliminary exploration (online or in-person) of the Robb Archive*
 - Include the anticipated dates for your visit to the UNM CSWR for archival consultation

4. **Detailed Project Budget** (up to 5,000 USD) – one page max
 - Provide line-item descriptions and estimates of project income and expenses
 - Provide amounts and descriptions of any grants/underwriting already received for the proposed project
 - Provide amounts and information about any pending funding/grants

5. **Key personnel/staff**
 - List key personnel and their project roles, and include a CV or bio detailing each member's expertise

UNDERWRITING AGREEMENT

Successful underwriting recipients will receive an Underwriting Agreement which requires a *signature indicating willingness to administer the funds as set forth in your proposal.*

For underwriting opportunities for non-profits, a signature is required from the Executive Director/ Chief Executive Officer or Officer of the Board of the organization.

REPORTING

At the mid-point of the project, or no later than November 15, 2026, a brief (500-word) progress report will be required prior to the second disbursement of funds. The report should detail progress toward goals and objectives as well as details about expenditures to-date. It is imperative that the report incorporates a description of what archival material is being used and how. All recipients are required to submit a final written report about the results of the project, including expenditures of underwriting funds. Underwriting recipients should be able to produce all project receipts if requested.

Final report due date: May 15, 2027.

Questions? Please email committee chair, Valerie Martínez, valmatz@comcast.net.