

Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2017

- Organization: Artspace, Inc
- Full street address of organization: 50 Orange St, New Haven CT 06510
- Website: artspacenh.org, cwos.org
- Name and title of the Direct Supervisor (*please note: the Direct Supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis*): Sarah Fritchey, Gallery Director/Curator or Helen Kauder, Executive Director (depending on project).
- Phone number and e-mail address of Direct Supervisor: 203 772-2709, sarah@artspacenh.org, helen@artspacenh.org
- Placement dates (*8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 30 and Friday, August 11, 2017*): Flexible
- Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe: Fellows who prefer an early or a later assignment are equally welcome.
- Hours of the program (*placements should be equivalent to full-time*): 10-6pm, the occasional Saturday may be swapped for a Monday.

Placement Description

- Organization description (*Mission statement, population served. 150 words or less.*): Artspace is New Haven's leading contemporary art space with a mission to catalyze artistic activities; connect contemporary artists, audiences, and resources; enrich art experiences; and create art spaces. Our 5,000 square-foot gallery space, anchored in an affordable housing complex in downtown New Haven, features a mix of group and solo shows of both local and nationally recognized artists. Our programs (gallery-based, outdoors, and citywide) give hundreds of local visual artists unparalleled opportunities for visibility, leadership training, income, space, and time to network with fellow artists. Our acclaimed annual Summer Apprenticeship Program, which pairs 15-18 public high school students with a Master Artist to create a major
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installation, is now in its second decade. In 2013, readers of the New Haven Advocate voted Artspace Best Non Profit organization, and in 2014, we were nominated Best Local Arts Organization. Our work has attracted the support of the Andy Warhol Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Institute for Museum & Library Services, and the City of New Haven's Office of Economic Development. Artspace's activities are supported by three full-time staff members, a hands-on eighteen-person Board of Directors, a ten-person Artist Board, a devoted corps of 120+ volunteers, college interns, and part-time program staff. Artspace offers a fast-paced, dynamic environment that believes in the visual arts as an effective means to initiate long-term positive change in New Haven.

- Please write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting.

The Fellow will join a small, hard-working team (the Gallery Director, the Communications Coordinator, and the Executive Director) as a full partner and will assume a high level of responsibility in helping to develop Artspace's programming, assist day-to-day operations, and shape our engagement with the community.

- Please write a complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow. (*Suggested length: one to two pages.*) The Fellow may choose from one of 3 placement options at Artspace:

A. City-Wide Open Studios Placement: *"No other cultural event...brings the city so close together and involves the city so intensely."*—*The New Haven Advocate*

The Fellow will work with the Board, senior staff, and artists to help organize the 20th annual City-Wide Open Studios festival and expand the resources available to the event. This inclusive month-long festival invites the public to witness the creative processes taking place in studios and spaces across Greater New Haven and is one of the largest festivals of its kind in the nation. Each year, a new festival theme inspire artists to make meaningful connections with New Haven's citizens, while creating accessible points of entry to the visual arts for a diverse public. Artists and community members engage with one another through commissioned works of interactive, temporary constructions, performances and unconventional public art settings. CWOS is also a platform for collaborations with other organizations (in 2017, with the Broken Umbrella Theater Co). Though each year has a unique theme, City-Wide Open Studios is always organized with a goal to:

- 1) Connect hundreds of visual artists to the public and to each other
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- 2) Provide a forum for showing and selling artwork that is open to all artists regardless of training or background
- 3) Foster community pride in visual artists and their contributions to New Haven
- 4) Draw visitors from New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and beyond to explore all that New Haven has to offer
- 5) Showcase vacant historic properties by using them as temporary exhibition spaces and contributing to their revitalization for other uses.

Over the course of the month-long festival as many as 500 artists show their work to nearly 10,000 visitors. Art dealers and curators from the region have used CWOS as a resource to discover new artists, plan upcoming shows, and buy art. More than 2 million square feet of underutilized space has been showcased as temporary studios.

CWOS includes a hub exhibition at Artspace, which displays one work by each participating artist for the duration of the festival; a weekend devoted to artists with year round studios in the former Erector Set factory building in Fair Haven; a private studios weekend, where artists dotting the city open up their houses and independent spaces; and an Alternative Space weekend, where Artspace transforms the vacant Goffe Street Armory into a temporary exhibition space. This pop-up activity brings new life to the Dixwell Beaver Hill neighborhood, connects artists to new audiences, public, and aids the city's redevelopment initiative.

The Fellow will help mobilize artist and partner participation for the fall 2017 event through planning meetings and presentations to various local and regional cultural groups, including groups involved in the visual arts, music, film, writing, dance, architecture, education, church and community development. The fellow will write letters to curators, activists, architects, educators and schools who might add to the Festival's 2017 theme. The Fellow will help recruit corporate and other sponsors, and will work with the staff and a graphic designer on the marketing and development strategies to ensure a successful event. This placement offers a unique opportunity to engage in community building through the arts. More information at www.cwos.org and View the short 2016 Open Studios video [here](#).

B. The annual Summer Apprenticeship Program Placement

The Fellow will work with a guest "lead artist", Artspace staff, and 15-18 high school students from New Haven public schools to execute and mount a large-scale installation in the gallery. This program, twice nominated for a Presidential Coming Up Taller award, gives urban teens unparalleled exposure to the practice and methods of a noted artist and connects them to the workings of a highly visible gallery. Past master artists have

included Sol LeWitt, Lee Boroson, Shih Chieh Huang, Jean Shin, and Yale alumni Titus Kaphar, and in 2016, Wardell Milan. The Fellow is a hands-on mentor to the students, who also works with local schools and educators to help identify and recruit the students, helps secure (with staff support) the materials needed for the installation, refines the curriculum so that it takes advantage of New Haven resources (for field trips and collaborations with other local organizations) and serves as the liaison between the students and the Lead Artist. The Fellow assists with various media content, eg possibly working with the students to develop short video interviews and documentation, writes/produces a pamphlet that gives a voice to each of the students and helps publicize the project for media coverage and for an opening reception in late July at which students are recognized and many educational leaders attend. Overall, the Fellow helps enable youth to forge relationships with artists and arts institutions, and provides them access to materials to support the creation of work that will also enhance their future engagement with Artspace and its programs.

Depending on his/her interest, the Fellow might work with performers, playwrights and theater designers to develop a spoken word performance that responds to the visual works. Alternatively, the Fellow might help the students organize a day long Closing Symposium that brings together artists, theorists, activists to discuss topics related to the focus of the summer project.

C. 30th Anniversary Program Placement *Three Decades of Change: Artspace from 1986-2016*.

THREE DECADES OF CHANGE is an exhibition/program series that takes stock of Artspace's 30-year history of exhibitions and events that have shaped New Haven's identity and sense of its cultural self. Drawing on Artspace's extensive archive, we will invite artists and curators to re-stage or reconsider specific moments in time and seminal exhibitions. On June 24 & 25, 2017, we are organizing a reunion that invites the 6,000 artists who have been associated with Artspace to convene in New Haven for workshops, small group conversations, story-telling, creative group activities, professional development seminars, all built around a downtown Bus Stop Biennial (arts installations on downtown's public transit bus shelters). The project culminates with the transfer of our 30-year archive to Yale's Arts Library, so that it can serve as an artist, community, and public resource for years to come.

The Fellow would work with our curator, archivist, founders, and reach out to alumni artists, speakers and hosts, help shape the reunion program topics, raise resources for the gathering, and assist on various aspects of this initiative. This Fellow should be available to start in May.

D. Creative Youth Development City-Wide Partnership. This pilot seeks to build collective impact across New Haven of the various efforts that arts organizations undertake to develop the next generation culture bearers. Artspace and members of the Arts Industry Coalition (ranging from the local Symphony, Long Wharf Theatre, to the Arts & Ideas Festival) have come together to create a common agenda, shared systems and activities, cross-sector engagement and continuous communications strategies. As a consortium, we have applied to serve as a host for 4 incoming Americorps/VISTA members in the 2017-2018 year. The Fellow would coordinate across the 9 member AIC to create a task plan and road map for this cohort.

E. *Sounds for Liberation*: Maria Gaspar Criminal Justice Radio Project Fellow.

Sounds for Liberation is an audio project that examines issues of boundaries and divisions through a community-based art process between three sites: the New Haven Correctional Facility, the Goffe Armory, and the neighborhood existing outside of these two institutions. Using sound as a tool for voicing, making visible and making present the histories, stories, and imagination of the people who live and interact with these sites, Sounds for Liberation will serve as a space of transmission and dialogue between communities separated and isolated from one another. The artist Maria Gaspar and Artspace are developing a 2017 audio project that uses recorded and live sounds from local community groups, young people, and transcripts from the currently detained at New Haven Correctional. The Fellow would identify partnerships with local groups interested in collaborating, identify key liaisons and local artists and activists, act as on site coordinator (Gaspar is based in Chicago) and depending on his/her experience, might develop a youth programming strategy and identify young people to act as youth leads for the interviews and audio production, and generally help Artspace establish the best, most meaningful and generative community participation.

Specific skills/experience required for the project (*Please list*):

- Exposure to the contemporary visual arts, art history (theory and practice) and performance art/theater, OR
 - Experience in community development work (e.g. grass-roots organizing, advocacy, youth work, tutoring/mentoring, festivals)
 - Strong writing skills
 - A take-charge, entrepreneurial spirit
 - Web/PR/Design, Photo/Film/Radio (content origination and editing/post-production) event production and/or Sound/Video/Projection experience will be very helpful
 - Art handling, installation, and events/fundraising experiences are pluses
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Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours).

Access to a car is occasionally helpful but not required. Occasional Saturday work will be needed for exhibition openings and workshops.

- Briefly describe the work that Yale PPSF Fellows have done with your agency in the past and present. If you have not worked with Yale Fellows, please describe any work that Yale students have done with your agency.

Since 2001, each Fellow has been given primary responsibility in coordinating one of our contemporary art exhibitions or programs. Some Fellows have even launched initiatives that have gone on to become Artspace core programs; for example, a past Fellow ran all aspects of our Summer Apprenticeship Program—a three-week, hands-on workshop in which a distinguished Master Artist collaborates with a team of fifteen urban high school students on the production of a major gallery installation. The Fellow assisted in all aspects of the educational initiative, from recruiting students, to designing field trips and mentoring students. A past History of Art graduate student Fellow worked with ten visiting artists on an innovative factory-based artist residency. He assisted each artist who came to New Haven in working with venerable local manufacturers to use their products and processes to make new work for an eventual exhibition at Artspace. He then wrote essays about the companies for the exhibition catalog and helped write several important grant proposals. After graduation, this experience helped him land a coveted curatorial post at the Andy Warhol Museum, and he has since become the Director. A past Graphic Design MFA student Fellow created the design and the visual identity materials for the annual City-Wide Open Studios festival. Another past undergraduate Fellow helped organize *Library Science*, an ambitious exhibition and film series about our changing relationship with libraries in the digital age. She served as the liaison between host libraries and the artists-in-residence who were making new work. She also curated a show of photographs and drawings in our Project Room.

Our 2015 Fellow, Julia Hammer-Light, worked on these two community projects:

<https://vimeo.com/137947380>

<https://vimeo.com/142209838>

Fellows usually also get immersed in one project of their choosing from among the upcoming exhibition and program calendar at Artspace. In sum, Artspace offers Fellows the freedom and platform they need to realize groundbreaking experimental work in the contemporary art field. In 2014, for example, Carl Stanley (School of Music), honed his grant writing skills by crafting our foundation and corporate sponsorship proposals, for the City-Wide Open Studios festival. He also selected and programmed the festival's eight music performances.
