Yale University President’s Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2018

- Organization: International Festival of Arts & Ideas

- Full street address of organization: 195 Church Street, 12th Floor

- Website: www.artidea.org

- Name and title of person who will be the Fellow’s direct supervisor:
  Sarah Sherban, Louise Endel Community Engagement Manager

- Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor:
  (203) 498-1212; ssheban@artidea.org

- Placement dates:
  May 29 – July 6, 2018

- Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe:
  Due to our Festival schedule, we are not able to offer flexibility between the dates of May 29 – June 23 and would strongly prefer candidates who can commit fully until at least June 29. Flexibility is available June 30 – July 6.

- Proposed work schedule:
  During the length of the Festival (June 9-23), the Fellow will be asked to have a flexible schedule that may include many evenings and all weekends. Outside of this time period, the Fellow will be able to make reasonable adjustments (including shortened days) to compensate for any additional hours served during the time of the Festival.
Placement Description

- Organization description:

Our mission is to create an internationally renowned festival in New Haven of the highest quality with world-class artists, thinkers and leaders, attracting and engaging a broad and diverse audience, celebrating and building community and advancing economic development.

More than 80,000 people joined us last year from across the country and right here in New Haven. Previous artists include Yo-Yo Ma, Camille A. Brown, and the Mark Morris Dance Company. The Festival also brings the biggest thought leaders in the world to our hometown for intimate discussions on the ideas that drive us.

We strive to create a Festival that is fun for ALL—focusing on making culturally relevant selections in programming and decrease barriers to access by offering 80% of our events free and providing hundreds of additional free- and reduced-cost tickets. Additional community engagement efforts include our High School Fellowship Program, Community Ambassador Program, and neighborhood “pop-up” festivals.

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

The Yale Fellow will immerse themselves in the June programming of the International Festival and will work directly with 12-15 New Haven high school Fellows, supporting the Festival’s Community Engagement Manager to ensure these students have a successful year. This will include day-to-day support, assisting Fellows in final preparation for a Town Hall style presentation, and conducting exit interviews.

- Please write a complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow.

The Festival High School Fellowship program was created to provide an access point for students who wouldn’t otherwise have the opportunity to participate in creative fields
or non-profit work. Starting in January, Fellows from ten New Haven Public High Schools will join us for weekly seminars at Gateway Community College, field trips, workshops with visiting national and international artists, and one-on-one mentoring by Festival staff and board members. The program cumulates in June with a Fellows-led Town Hall style event that seeks to address the issues most-relevant to our young people. In 2017, Fellows worked with Festival artists Aaron Jafferis to address gun violence and in 2018 they will address ideas of citizenship.

By investing heavily in a small group of students, the Fellowship program profoundly transforms the lives of these youth by providing access points into new professional networks and connections into the fields that they are interested in pursuing. The Festival's Fellowship program has a track record of improving each Fellows' skills in critical thinking, writing, creating presentations, and speaking in front of others, giving them confidence needed for academic success. The program has a 100% success rate of high school graduation from all Fellows who have completed the program. Upon “graduation” from the program, every Fellow receives for college credits—completely free of cost. They have also gained invaluable experience and deep networks in the New Haven arts community.

The Yale President’s Public Service Fellow plays an important role during the final period of the High School Fellowship Program. Specific duties will include:

- Support Program Manager in preparation of materials for sessions with students
- Act as a near-peer mentor for students
- Assist in production of Fellowship-related events during the Festival, including Town Hall
- Research related jobs or internships for students at the completion of the program
- Assist Program Manager in solidifying schedule for immersion experience, including creating detailed itineraries and communicating with content providers and students about their schedules
- Assist Program Manager in organizing/delivering Fellowship activities and events
- Chaperone the students as they participate in their immersion experience, bringing them from venue to venue, supervising students and continuing to serve as a teaching assistant for content providers as necessary
- Liaise with other Festival departments who will be providing service to the fellows
- Document the program using photos and video
- Assist in post-program wrap-up including thank you letters, follow-ups with families, and archiving materials
• Specific skills/experience required for the project:

We welcome Fellows with diverse life experiences and academic interests. Our most successful Fellows have had excellent organizational skills with the ability to multi-task and be flexible in a creative, fast-moving work environment; outgoing personality, inquisitive and a sense of humor; strong leadership and interpersonal skills working with teenagers and adults; proficiency in Microsoft Word and other basic computer programs; and effective communication and problem-solving skills. Due to the high level of responsibility and autonomy required, this position is best-suited for a graduate- or professional-level student.

• Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). If a car is required, please include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement):

Weekends and evening hours are required during the Festival’s run from June 9 – June 23. A vehicle is not required or recommended; all work will take place at the Festival’s primary office (195 Church Street) and throughout Downtown New Haven.

• 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.

The Festival has a long relationship with Yale University, including hosting multiple Fellows over the past twenty-plus years. Most recently, in 2017 we hosted a Fellow who did similar work as outlined in this listing, supporting the High School Fellowship Program and its students. Fellows have also helped the Festival collect economic impact surveys and activate local volunteers.