Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2019

• Organization: Artspace, Inc

• Full street address of organization: 50 Orange St

Website: www.artspacenh.org

• Name and title of person who will be the Fellow’s direct supervisor (the supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis): Sarah Fritchey, Gallery Director/Curator. Depending on the project selected, it could also be Helen Kauder, Executive Director, Helen@artspacenh.org

• Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor: sarah@artspacenh.org, helen@artspacenh.org, 203 772-2709

Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 28 and Friday, August 9, 2019): May 28 and August 9, Flexible. 8-11 weeks in there.

• Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe: Yes.

• Proposed work schedule (placements should be equivalent to full-time and not more than 37.5 hours/week): 10 am-6pm. (This may vary somewhat. July is M-F, but June and August will be Tue-Sat)

Placement Description

Organization description (mission statement, population served):
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, anchoring New Haven’s largest affordable housing complex, 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 20 public high school students with a Lead Artist to create a major installation, is now in its 19th year. 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 garnered 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 a staff of 4, a hands-on eighteen-person Board of Directors, a ten-person Artist Board, a devoted corps of 75+ 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.

- **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.

**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 22nd annual City-Wide Open Studios festival, recruit artists and community partners, and expand the resources available to this visual arts showcase. This inclusive month-long festival invites the public to meet local artists and witness the creative processes taking place in studios and spaces across Greater New Haven. Our festival inspires artists to make meaningful connections with New Haven’s citizens by creating accessible points of entry to the visual arts for a diverse public. We invite artists and community members to engage with one another through ambitious commissioned works, temporary constructions, performances and public art. 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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**Questions? Call the Yale Office of New Haven and State Affairs: (203) 432-8412**
2) Provide a forum for showing, talking about, and selling artwork that is open to all artists regardless of training or background
3) Foster community pride in visual and performing artists, and their contributions to a thriving city
4) Draw visitors from New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and beyond to explore all that New Haven has to offer
5) Showcase vacant and/or historic properties by using them as temporary exhibition spaces and contributing to their revitalization for other uses.
6) Cultivate a space for showing the work of local rising youth voices, organized through, by and for alum from our annual Summer Apprenticeship Program
7) Deepen community ties to neighboring local non-profits and organizations, who share one or more parts of our mission, and are interested in collaborating on the production of original works of visual, performing or literary art

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 across the city open up their homes and independent spaces; and the Alternative Space Weekend, where Artspace transforms a vacant property into a temporary exhibition space showcasing artists who live too far outside of New Haven, or do not have access to a work-studio. Past spaces have included the Goffe Street Armory (next to Hillhouse High School), the Pirelli Building (next to IKEA), the production facility of the New Haven Register and Yale West Campus.

The Fellow will help mobilize artists and partner participants for the fall 2019 event through presentations to groups involved in the visual arts, music, film, writing, dance, architecture, education, church and community development. The fellow will craft letters of invitation to curators, activists, architects, coaches, and schools who might add to the Festival’s interactive projects. 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 work with the arts.

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More information about CWOS at www.cwos.org. The full scope of the Festival comes alive in the Official Guide, with a cover and identity designed by our 2017 YPPSF Fellow LiYan Zhao:


B. The annual Summer Apprenticeship Program Placement

The Fellow will work with renown filmmaking non-profit Echo Park Film Center (http://www.echoparkfilmcenter.org) on The Sounds We See, a project that provides 20 high school teens from New Haven the opportunity to shoot their own “City Symphony,” a historic film forum that shows and tells the story of the life of a city over the course of one 24-hour day. 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 Artspace’s highly visible gallery. Past master artists have included Sol LeWitt, Lee Boroson, Shih Chieh Huang, Jean Shin, Titus Kaphar and most recently Roberto Lugo. For The Sounds We See, students will be trained to shoot, edit and develop film using 16mm video cameras. Visit Vimeo for a short film that tells the story of our 2015 Apprenticeship: https://vimeo.com/137951793

In this placement, the Fellow begins by working with local schools and educators to help identify and recruit the students, then helps secure (with staff support) the materials needed for the art production and its installation. The Fellow will also work with Artspace staff and the Lead Artist to develop and refine the day-to-day curriculum so that it (1) takes advantage of New Haven resources (for field trips, special guest visits, and collaborations with other local organizations), (2) provides room for students to get to know one another, build trust and a sense of group togetherness, tell their stories, and connect to the deeper (and sometimes emotionally, intellectually and politically challenging) themes of the work they are exploring with the Lead Artist, and (3) cultivate their knowledge around the special techniques of art making and production that they are being trained to take on and make their own. The Fellow will work with staff to develop materials for reaching out to members of the press who might be interested in covering the show.

During the time of the three-week apprenticeship, the Fellow will attend the program from 1-4pm daily, arriving early to prepare for the day’s activities and oversee any last minute changes to the curriculum (weather/health related), take attendance, call/text
any students who are late or have missed a day of class, be on site to assist with an optional 4-5pm open studio making hour, and have an occasional all-staff debrief from 5-5:30pm. The Fellow primarily will serve as supportive, reliable and compassionate liaison for the Lead Artist, the students and the Artspace staff.

In the final two weeks of the program, the Fellow will assist with the production of various media content, eg possibly working with the students to develop short video interviews and documentation, writing/producing a pamphlet that gives a voice to each of the students, leading and transcribing a 1,000 word interview with the Lead Artist, and preparing for the student’s opening reception in late July, which invites students and their families/networks to celebrate the artwork, which is each year, accompanied by an original performance (spoken word, play, original musical piece, etc.). Overall, the Fellow in this placement helps us enable local underserved youth forge life changing relationships with professional artists, local emerging artists, recent graduates from past SAP programs, and Connecticut-based arts institutions, and provide students the tools and techniques to recognize themselves as accomplished artists, who have a important voice in our community and space at Artspace’s table.

Depending on his/her interest, the Fellow might work also with performers, playwrights and theater designers to develop an original musical score or a spoken word performance that would accompany the silent film that the students will make.

C. Exhibition Assistant Organizer, A Strange Loop Placement

This group exhibition, to run November 2019-February 2020, addresses the contemporary anxieties of the conflicted individual in the wake of rapid technological transformation. The show highlights the individual’s desires to return to simpler times, but also to keep pace with the evolving mediated landscape. Taking stock of our epoch of self-driving cars and pedestrian Artificial Intelligence, “Strange Loops” begs the question: have we already sleepwalked into a greater singularity? Or is the virtual landscape a place of infinite possibility of unbound human desire? Also, can artists provide virtual alternatives to spaces of cultural hegemony, which ignite the imagination, and make room for critique?

The Fellow will work with the Guest Curator team (artists Federico Solmi (NYU) and Johannes DeYoung (Carnegie Mellon) and Artspace Curator Sarah Fritchey to organize all aspects of the show: the loans of artwork and loan agreements, early PR, the conceptualizing of public programming and the search for sponsors and funders.

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This is a great placement if you want to learn how an exhibition comes together.

D. Curriculum Developer Placement--2020: Black Panther Trials 50 Years Later.

This placement will entail working with the creative team behind Artspace’s upcoming exhibition which will mark the 50th anniversary of the Black Panther trial in New Haven and the May Day 1970 rallies on the New Haven Green that brought national attention to New Haven. This project involves the development of high school curriculum in partnership with educators at Hillhouse High School and New Haven High School, 2 local public schools. By the end of the Fellowship, the goal is to develop a one semester set of lesson plans, reading and resources list, and possible alternative channels of distribution (eg podcasts, videos) that examines some of the fundamental legal and social justice questions raised by the trial, and the legacy of Black Panther Party here today.

Specific skills/experience required for the project:

- Exposure to the contemporary visual arts, art history (theory and practice), film (theory and/or making) 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, event production and/or Sound/Video/Projection experience will be very helpful
- Art handling, installation, and events/fundraising experiences are pluses
- Spanish is a plus

- Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours).

Access to a car is helpful (mileage reimbursed) 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 organization in the past and present.

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. In 2017, a Graphic Design MFA student Fellow created the design and the visual identity materials for the annual City-Wide Open Studios festival. A 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 Hamer-Light, worked on these two projects:

https://vimeo.com/137947380
https://vimeo.com/142209838

Fellows usually also immerse themselves 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.