Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2020

- Organization: Artspace, Inc

- Full street address of organization (Fellows must be provided with a desk and computer at placement site and cannot work remotely):
  50 Orange St, New Haven, in the historic Ninth Square District of downtown

- 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

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

- Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 26 and Friday, August 7, 2020): Flexible, 11 weeks

- Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe:
  Artspace is flexible. If the Youth project is selected, Key dates are June, July and early August.

- Proposed work schedule (placements should be equivalent to full-time and not more than 37.5 hours/week): Tue-Sat, 10-6. July dates may shift to Monday-Friday.

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, 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, turns 20 this year. 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 Advisory 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 (50 words or less. This will be used as your organization’s project description summary on the PPSF website, so be succinct): 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.

- Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow. (Suggested length: one to two pages.)

A. City-Wide Open Studios Festival 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 23rd 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, all built around our downtown hub space. Our opening night brings 6,000 people to Ninth Square to enjoy Downtown New Haven’s vitality and is followed by multiple weekends in which artists 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.

In 2020, we are investing energy into downtown revitalization, placemaking, and systems of mutual support of the many small retailers who struggle to stay afloat. The 2020 theme is Who Governs?
City-Wide Open Studios is always organized with a goal to:

1) Connect hundreds of visual artists to the public and to each other
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 400+ 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 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.
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. Youth Summer Apprenticeship Program Placement + Graphic Design project

The Fellow inspires and mentors local public high school students who have creative interests but limited exposure to the arts. The Fellow will work with graphic designer Daniel Pizarro on a youth justice project harnessing graphic design as a tool for political organizing and community development. SAP provides 20 high school teens from New Haven public schools the opportunity to create a large-scale exhibition at Artspace. This summer, the impetus for the project is the 50th anniversary of the Black Panther Party trials that took place in New Haven, where thousands of protesters took over the New Haven Green. Students will study the Panther party’s designs, collage, newspapers and other grassroots collateral that helped create their platform, and then craft their own.

The concurrent exhibition at Artspace, May Day 2020: Learning from the Black Panther trials 50 years later, will serve as the curriculum and inspiration. Visit the link.

SAP gives New Haven teens unparalleled exposure to the methods of a noted artist and connects them to the workings of Artspace’s highly visible gallery. Past lead artists have included Titus Kaphar, Nona Faustine, and Roberto Lugo. 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 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 an important voice in our community and space at Artspace’s table.

We would love to host a Fellow with experience in typography, graphic design, silkscreening, layout, publishing, zines. 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 students’ exhibition.

C. Exhibition Assistant Organizer, The Swelling Whisperer of the Ages

Working in collaboration with the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, Artspace is inviting a group of artists to create work that responds to an object in each of the Peabody’s world-renowned collections and that thinks critically about the provenance of the materials. While the Museum’s holdings include over 13 million objects, only .0004% of the collection is on display at any one time. Many culturally significant, and scientifically important objects are rarely seen by the public. Each artist will work side by side with a Peabody Collections Manager to access and identify specimens whose stories will be told anew, and, for the very first time, outside of the museum context. These
commissions will result in The Swelling Whispers of Ages, a group exhibition to take place at Artspace while the Peabody is closed for renovations. Some of the Peabody’s public programs may also be reimagined and organized to take place at Artspace.

The Fellow will work directly with Artspace Curator Sarah Fritchey and with the Peabody’s staff 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.

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

• List specific skills/experience required for the project: Hopefully you bring a lot of these attributes:
  1. Exposure to the contemporary visual arts, graphic design, art history (theory and practice), film (theory and/or making), performance art/theater, and/or journalism.
  2. Experience in community development work (e.g. grass-roots organizing, advocacy, youth work, tutoring/mentoring, festivals)
  3. Strong graphic design and writing skills
  4. A take-charge, entrepreneurial spirit
  5. Web/PR/Design, Photo/Film/Radio, event production and/or Sound/Video/Projection experience will be very helpful
  6. Art handling, installation, and events/fundraising experiences are very welcome
  7. Spanish is a plus

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

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. If you have not worked with Yale Fellows, describe any work that Yale students have done with your organization.
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 social justice projects (copy links into your browser)

- 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.