**Ely Center of Contemporary Art**

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**Yale University President’s Public Service Fellowship**

Proposal for Yale Fellowship Placement • Summer 2020

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**Organization**

Friends of the John Slade Ely House of Contemporary Art, Inc.

DBA as Ely Center of Contemporary Art

**Address**

51 Trumbull Street, New Haven, CT 06510

**Website**

https://www.elycenter.org

**Supervisor**

Debbie Hesse, Vice President Board of Directors

**Supervisor phone and e-mail**

203-804-9561, dhesse@elycenter.org

**Placement dates**

Wednesday, May 27, 2020 thru Friday, August 7, 2020

**Placement dates flexibility**

Yes, begin after Memorial Day is observed.

**Work schedule**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10–5:00 pm or 9–4 pm, Thursday 12–9:00 pm.
Placement Description

Organization description
Friends of John Slade Ely House of Contemporary Art, Inc. was formed in 2015 to preserve an important and essential New Haven institution known as the “John Slade Ely House Galleries” that for 55+ years has served as the hub that generated New Haven’s art-centric identity as a culture center and nurtured the start-up of many arts organizations. The gift to New Haven was the vision of Grace T. Ely whose testamentary intention was to leave her fortune in Trust to provide a public arts center in her residence for emerging contemporary artists.

Rebranded as the Ely Center of Contemporary Art, the Friends mission is to ensure the continuation of its essential identity as a vibrant arts center bringing together and collaborating with its community around curatorial practice that initiates and instigates issues, ideals, and innovations to explore the human condition and to address a larger cultural context of interests in more open and inclusive dialogues.

Project description
The PPS Fellow will work directly with the Ely Center of Contemporary Art’s small staff to facilitate and engage culture makers together with community through current and emerging contemporary art: conceptualize and install exhibitions, create social media and promotional materials, develop and organize relevant programming events such as panel discussions, performances, and workshops.

Duties/outcomes
We seek to provide leadership and learning opportunities to culture makers and future leaders who are marginalized or underrepresented in the New Haven community. We have a 55+ tradition, but Friends is a true start-up powered by a dedicated and passionate team. We seek to expand our capacity to reach and serve our community through the help of a PPS Fellow.

We are writing to request a PPS Fellow, who would work closely with the Ely Center staff and board to help us with our daily organizational needs and future planning to impact our community and fully express our mission. We hope to address our mission and serve our community better through such efforts while providing and supporting a leadership opportunity for a student.
By partnering with the Ely Center, the PPS Fellow will have a unique opportunity to be directly involved with all aspects of the Ely Center and will gain insight, connections, and knowledge about contemporary art and the New Haven regional arts community. The PPS Fellow will also learn about and assist in developing exhibition concepts, installation, and relevant programming in the areas of social justice, public awareness, community health and engagement while gaining practical, project management skills such as budgeting, program-specific marketing, and some grant-writing. The Fellow will also gain experience interacting with local artists and with the public by organizing community programming that unites art and artists around contemporary social justice themes.

We are interested in a PPS Fellow who will promote awareness, equity, and justice in our community by using art as a platform to cultivate change, spark compassion, and explore the human condition. With a PPS Fellows' contributions to our team of volunteers and small staff, we can take sound steps as a growing organization to enlarge our outreach and fundraising efforts to New Haven’s art-centric community as fresh, engaging, and exciting as Grace T. Ely intended with her gift. While learning and working, a PPS Fellow will act as a generational voice and liaison to help us reach our goal of exploring new knowledge: current, contemporary issues, ideals, and innovations.

The PPS Fellow will work with various committees, gain training in arts administration, and learn about the theoretical concerns that inform contemporary curatorial practice while developing practical skills such as:

- Facilitate the development of curatorial concept;
- Catalogue works of art and keep records;
- Carry out background research and writing catalog copy;
- Installation of artworks for exhibition that is engaging to the general public;
- Writing articles for the website and social media;
- Writing articles for internal and external publications;
- Planning, organizing, interpreting and presenting exhibitions and lectures;
- Collaborating with other community partners, on education, fundraising, marketing and scheduling;
- Handling inquiries from researchers and the public;
Dealing with, and understanding, digital imagery, ecommerce software as part of social media and outreach;
- Staff training, promotion and development;
- Liaising with voluntary groups, community and industry (including schools, local history and other community groups);
- Liaising with Ely Center boards members;
- Networking with other arts organizations, professionals and outside agencies.
- Document work product and interactions with the public, photograph still and moving images for website and social media.

Desired skills/experience
- Communications skills including writing
- Inter-personal skills
- Organizational and an interest in the arts
- Interested in learning about New Haven’s arts community.

Additional requirements
No car or weekend hours are required of the Fellow.

Past Yale PPSF Fellows
In 2016, after a year-long campaign and court-challenge with stakeholders and shareholders, Andrew Wolf, Director of New Haven Cultural Affairs Office, shared a PPS Fellow assigned to his office with the Friends, who helped shape our start-up initiative. Jason helped to organize and build our executive tools and strategies, set up a Google Administrative account for the Executive Board, advised the executive board about governance, and how to work as a team.

In 2017, a PPS Fellow was once again shared by Andrew Wolf’s office for an exhibition titled *Broad Stripes and Bright Stars* (see examples) to work directly with Ely Center curatorial collaborators, Aicha Woods and Dave Coons. Over 100 artists exhibiting work and lead to many relevant program events. Molly, PPS Fellow, set up and scheduled a number of workshops, artist talks, performances, and facilitated and coordinated the opening and closing receptions of the exhibition.
In 2019, ECOCA was assigned Fellow, Jacqueline Blaska, who worked directly with our staff member, interns from the CT Office of the Arts, and volunteer summer staff.

Jacqueline was an outstanding fellow. She took the initiative to conduct research and write up a project overview for an exhibition *Extra/Almost Human* that will take place in 2020. She also worked on a Connecticut Office of the Arts Project Grant which we subsequently received. Jacqueline worked extremely well with staff, board members, volunteers and participating artists and greatly contributed to the overall production and positive environment at ECOCA. Her interactions with our summer Artists-in-Residence was always thoughtful and appropriate. She conducted theater improv “break the ice” activities with residents to help them acclimate and lent daily support as well. Jacqueline was a pleasure to work with and we are thrilled that she will stay involved with the Ely Center during the year through her attendance at receptions and programs as well as a planned performance this winter.

Jax, as we came to call her, was a highly motivated, thoughtful and generous Fellow. Jax helped with:
- Grantwriting
- Events
- Programming

The following is the work of YPPS Fellows, Molly FitzMaurice (2017) and Jacqueline Blaska (2019). For more of Jacqueline’s participation, please see our website https://elycenter.org

To summarize, each YPPS Fellow has provided an enormous cultural contribution and great service to the Ely Center and to the City.
**Broad Stripes and Bright Stars**: Examples of exhibition and programming for ECoCA impacted by PPS Fellowship.

Catalog
https://www.calameo.com/read/00407006715a4c704e008?authid=ktXqSNePAWYb

**Neely Bruce and Friends** sing the Bill of Rights (left) John O'Donnell performs in the backyard (right) at the opening.

**Collage Workshop** with Stanwyck Cromwell and Moussa Gueye (left)
**Land of the Free? Think Tank’s Jay Critchley** artist talk (right)
Graffiti Workshop with Dooley-O (left) and Photo Transfer Workshop with Christine Tinsley’s mixed media project “SisterVet” (right)

Flag Weaving Workshop with Ruben Marroquin

Flag Retirement & Closing Celebration at our closing, collected flags were retired with proper burning in this special ceremony led by the VFW New Haven’s Derek Torrellas, James Namnoun, and VFW Chaplain.
BROAD STRIPES AND BRIGHT STARS
By Center for Contemporary Art
51 Trumbull Street, New Haven, CT
June 29, 2017 – August 13, 2017

EVENTS

Our series of artist-led and community-driven events brings the gallery walls to life. Join us for creative workshops and conversations. All are free and open to the public.

COLLAGE WORKSHOP Thursday July 20, 5pm
Featured artists Stanwyck Cromwell and Moussa Gueye will lead participants through a collage workshop. Gueye, a former IRIS client from Mauritania, and Cromwell, who immigrated from Guyana to Bloomfield, CT 40 years ago and has explored immigrant experience in his artistry through that time, will guide participants in translating identity into expression through the special art of collecting, juxtaposing, and collaging, which is integral to both artists’ own work. While collage materials are provided, attendees are invited to bring images, objects, or clippings that are significant, interesting, or inspiring to them.

OPEN FORUM ON THE FLAG & NEW AMERICANS Thursday July 20, 7pm
Featured artists Stanwyck Cromwell, Moussa Gueye, Gabriella Svenningsen, and Susan Clinard open a dialogue about their artistry as well as the flag’s special meanings for immigrants, refugees, and New Americans. In this informal public forum, we welcome everyone in our community to join in the conversation.

GRAFFITI WORKSHOP Sunday July 23, 2pm
Featured artist Dooley-O, a hip hop and graffiti artist and the mastermind DJ/producer behind the Back Room, highlights the powerful contributions of graffiti to the exhibit and to our daily landscape in the city of New Haven. After an introductory discussion and demonstration on primed wood panels, Dooley-O will invite participants to try their hands, collaborating on a final group painting.

FLAG WEAVING WORKSHOP Wednesday July 26, 6pm & Sunday July 30, 2pm
Visual artist, textile designer, and weaving instructor Ruben Marroquin invites attendees of all ages and abilities to experience the unique joys of textile art and introductory weaving technique. Each participant will create their own unique woven flag using bamboo, yarn, and textiles, inspired by the artist’s own intricate woven flags that grace the exhibit. Looms and materials provided.

PHOTO TRANSFER WORKSHOP Thursday July 27, 6pm
In featured artist Christine Tinsley’s mixed media project “SisterVet,” she honors the stories of women veterans through portraits on special handmade paper made from dress uniforms—molding fabric, memory, and beautiful images. Tinsley will share her practice with participants, guiding them through a “Purell transfer” process that transfers images to her handmade paper in unique, evocative, and sometimes surprising ways! All materials are provided for this fun and easy workshop, but participants are encouraged to bring a digital file of an image or photo to transfer.
LAND OF THE FREE? THINK TANK Wednesday August 2, 6pm
Artist, activist, and entrepreneur Jay Critchley will open a conversation on social practice as art. When Jay founded the Old Glory Condom Corporation, he redefined patriotism in the fight against HIV/AIDS and won a controversial three-year legal battle for its US Trademark, and that was only the beginning! In this practical, artist-led workshop on civically engaged art, community members from all backgrounds and experiences are invited to bring a new idea you’re not sure how to execute, a project you’d like to pitch, or a work-in-progress for feedback!

FAMILY DAY Sunday August 6, 1pm-4pm
Though always open to all, on this day the exhibit extends an especially friendly welcome to young visitors, offering an interactive scavenger hunt to lead eager explorers through the gallery, prompting questions to deepen young viewers’ engagement with the artwork, and design-your-own-flag coloring pages.

FREE YOGA FOR ALL IN THE GARDEN Sunday August 6, 2pm
108 Monkeys invites all bodies, ages, and abilities to move and breathe together in the Ely Center’s charming backyard. Enliven a peaceful pursuit of social justice through yoga with instructor and Street Bodhi Xan McKnight—then step inside to reflect on the flag’s potential for resistance and resilience. Mats are available if needed, but we encourage you to bring your own mat.

FLAG RETIREMENT & CLOSING CELEBRATION Sunday August 13, 1pm-4pm
Throughout the exhibit, community members are invited to bring in flags they wish to retire. At our closing, collected flags will be retired with proper burning in this special ceremony led by Derek Torrellas and James Namnoun, VFW New Haven Chaplain. Check back for more on our closing festivities!

LEARN MORE & SHARE
https://www.elycenter.org
https://www.facebook.com/broadstripesandbrightstarsart

QUESTIONS? Contact event liaison Molly FitzMaurice at caintern@nehavenct.gov

Our events are made possible through the generous support of The Arts Council of Greater New Haven and Wells Fargo.

MAKE MUSIC DAY, NEW HAVEN
SMALL TOWN, BIG MUSIC: MAKE MUSIC NEW HAVEN

Ely Center of Contemporary Art

**Special Thanks to:**
- Special thanks to our fantastic volunteers for making the event a huge success and a lovely event. We can’t take this without you.

**The Arts Council** (for coordinating Make Music Day New Haven)
- Connecticut Office of the Arts & National Endowment for the Arts (for staff support)
- Van Deusen (for organizing events)
- 10:45 for their generous contribution of free beer for our performers
- Southwick Company (for supplying beer for our green roof)
- And, many, many, many incredible artist/designers:

And:
- The wonderful MAKE MUSIC NEW HAVEN volunteers for all of their hard work and dedication to their community art on this special day.

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**Make Music Day at ECOCFA**

**FRI, JUN 21**

Make Music Day at ECOCA
Ely Center of Contemporary Art - New Haven, CT

Debbie, Valerie and 6 friends

Valerie Garlick, Joy Pepe and 2 others

Like
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Write a comment...

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**Community Cut N’ Swap & Seed Share**

**THU, JUN 4**

Community Cut N’ Swap & Seed Share
Ely Center of Contemporary Art - New Haven, CT

Debbie Hesse invited you

Spring is here, and it’s gardening season! Looking for a place to swap some cuttings or seeds with fellow members of the New Haven community? Come to our Community Cut & Swap & Seed Share! We want to generate an environment in which community members can come forward and exchange plant cuttings or saved seeds with one another, in the ecological spirit of Sea & Soil // Water Access. If you are interested in participating, or are looking to drop off or donate cuttings/seeds, please reach out and let me know!
Join us at ECOCA tonight for another open studios Thursday, 5-8 pm, complete with another clothing swap from Sarah Games! We got to catch up with Sarah and talk to him a bit about why clothing swaps resonate with him: “I was introduced to clothing swaps through a queer organizing space that I was in, and the purpose behind it there was to give space and agency to people who may want to wear something that doesn’t ‘match’ the gender that they were assigned at birth. Going int...

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