Yale University President’s Public Service Fellowship

Request for Placements • Summer 2020

• Organization: Junta for Progressive Action, Inc.

• Full street address of organization (Fellows must be provided with a desk and computer at placement site and cannot work remotely): 169 Grand Avenue, New Haven, CT 06513

• Website: www.juntainc.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): Letticia Cruz, Office Manager

• Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor: 203-787-0191, letticia.cruz@juntainc.org

• Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 26 and Friday, August 7, 2020): June 1-August 3

• Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe: The placement dates will be flexible upon demand of the program.

• Proposed work schedule (placements should be equivalent to full-time and not more than 37.5 hours/week): 25-35 Hours per week dependent on the availability of the applicant.

Placement Description

• Organization description (mission statement, population served. 150 words or less.): The mission of Junta for Progressive Action is to collaborate with Latinx and Immigrant communities in the Greater New Haven area to advance the social, economic and civic environment for all, while embracing Latinx cultural
traditions. Junta was originally founded in 1969 by Puerto Rican migrants seeking to break down language barriers and educational limitations, as well as discrimination in housing, employment, and education. Today, Junta continues to address these barriers that still persist in the low income Latinx and immigrant communities of New Haven by offering programs and services from its three departments JUNTA 360 (Social Service), JUNTA Rises (Community and Economic Development) programs, and JUNTA Youth (youth programs). The organization also maintains strong collaborations with other agencies and organizations around New Haven to create a comprehensive network of support capable of addressing acute crises from all angles.

- 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 be tasked with the curriculum planning, coordinating, and fundraising for Junta’s Big Turtle Village Summer Camp and Girl Scout summer camp. The Fellow will also be expected to work on recruitment and logistics for the camps.

- 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.)

  Big Turtle Village is a five-day free camping trip for children, ages 8-12 who do not have the economic means to attend summer camp. The program is run completely by volunteers and located at Devil’s Hopyard State Park in East Haddam, Connecticut. The camp introduces children to the natural environment through workshops that encourage children to advocate for their health, the environment and its preservation. The program was created by Junta’s former board member Rafael Ramos, and has been running for the past 18 years. The Fellow will consult with Mr. Ramos to take over the logistics of the program. This will include

  - Develop and coordinate relationships with outside groups and institutions to create a curriculum of workshops and activities for the camp.
  - Recruit Children who have previously attended as well as new children into the program.
  - Create a fundraising strategy to raise money for program expenses.
  - Handle program logistics.

  The Girl Scouts Summer Camp will be offered by Junta and the Girl Scouts of Connecticut for the first time following a partnership between their organization and Junta’s
afterschool program, The Neighborhood Place (TNP). Through this partnership, a unique troop designed for low-income children with the mission of building courage, confidence and character meets twice a week during TNP. As this is the first year, the Fellow will be tasked with developing the program with similar responsibilities as The Big Turtle Village. This includes:

- Develop a curriculum in line with the girl Scout’s programs in STEM, life skills, entrepreneurship, and outdoors. The activities and workshops should also offer the scouts a chance to exercise leadership skills.

- Create a fundraising strategy to raise money for program expenses.

- Handle program logistics including camp location and dates.

- List specific skills/experience required for the project:
  - Project management
  - Problem Solving skills
  - Ability to work independently and as part of a team
  - Ability to manage multiple deadlines
  - Excellent organizational and time-management skills
  - Outstanding communication, interpersonal and leadership skills
  - Attention to details
  - Proactive problem solver
  - Skill in the use of personal computers and related software applications.

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

- 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.

  Junta has not worked with Yale PPSF Fellows in the past but has benefited from the volunteer work of Yale students. Yale volunteers have helped junta at its monthly sponsored mobile food pantry, assisting with handing out fresh produce to low income participants. Yale students have also volunteered in Junta’s afterschool program, the Neighborhood Place, a program that gives children ages 5-14 the
opportunity to share positive experiences with others and offers creative outlets to improve their social, personal and academic growth.