Organization: SITE PROJECTS | New Haven

Address: 9 Lincoln St
New Haven, CT 06510

Website: siteprojects.org

Supervisor: Marshall Leggett
Assistant Executive Director
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Placement dates: May 26th - August 7th (10 weeks)
Flexible placement dates

Work Schedule: Mon - Fri, 11am - 5pm

Organization Description:

Site Projects is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that commissions world-class public artworks, programming, and events on a project-by-project basis in partnership with local agencies and organizations in order to enhance New Haven's cultural heritage and accessibility. Through the creation of historically and community-informed public art, Site Projects hopes to create a sense of place in the city and unity across neighborhoods.

Summary of the work that the fellow would be conducting:

Site Projects seeks help in the creation of public art installations for the newly developing Mill River Trail in New Haven. This endeavor involves working with the Site Projects team to research artists, find appropriate locations, talk with the city, create concepts, obtain authorizations and permits, implement the piece, and develop outreach programs.
More complete description of the specific project you propose with duties and outcomes expected of the fellow:

The Mill River Trail is an exciting City project to build an accessible multi-modal trail and a series of parks along the Mill River from the Eli Whitney Museum to the harbor, with the goal of reconnecting the citizen of New Haven to the waterfront that was cleaved from Downtown with the building of the highways. The Trail faces challenges of safety (darkness, low foot traffic), running under the highway and beside a former industrial area. The installation of public artworks along the path will be part of increasing accessibility to the trail and attracting people to come and enjoy the water. By creating unexpected and engaging elements of interest, these artworks create a sense of place and arrival for its users.

Site Projects is purposefully a small and independent organization, now 15 years in operation, with the intention of being free to pursue projects we find valuable. Because of this independence, we are involved with the many stages required to execute a public art project. We would welcome the Fellow to be as much a part of this process as possible, as they will gain experience in the many aspects of realizing a piece of public art. Because of the multi-faceted aspect of the project, we are flexible in terms of where the Fellow feels they can be the most helpful. Depending on which unique skills they bring to the team, or which skills they wish to grow, we will accommodate their area of focus. The early process involves researching grants and other funding opportunities, as well as potential artists. This research will extend to the history of the site, with the intention that the artwork will maintain awareness of its place in time and space. Once artists have been found, conversations can begin about potential designs for the artwork. The Fellow will be invited to attend these meetings and contribute to the conversation. The Fellow will have the opportunity to work on project budgets and work plans, and develop methods of receiving community feedback and evaluation. Once implementation of the project begins, the Fellow will interface with the artist, site managers, and surrounding community as the team secures permits, runs construction, and plans events for the community.
A Fellow who takes a proactive interest in this project will benefit the most from our small and independent structure, as our flexibility will allow them more responsibility and input than in larger operations, thus giving them greater opportunities to shape the areas in which they wish to gain experience.

**Specific skills/experience required:**
- Interest in art + urbanism
- Interest in community building
- Love of New Haven
- Organizational Skills
- Social Media Skills
- Writing Skills
- Adaptability

**Additional Requirements (car, weekend):**
None. All necessary work will be done during the week at our downtown office within easy walking distance of City Hall and other relevant locations.

**Briefly describe work with yale students in the past:**
This is our first application for the President’s Public Service Fellowship, but in the past we have worked with Yale students to research public art and the history of the city, as well as creating graphic design work. These students came from many different disciplines, but became involved with Site Projects through their interest in public art, history, urban planning, and love of New Haven.
Site Projects in Action:

2019 Public Art Fellow video art workshop

“Dawn and Gemma” by SWOON
“Square with four circles” by Varini