Yale University President’s Public Service Fellowship

- **Organization**: New Haven Urban Resources Initiative

- **Full street address of organization** *(Fellows must be provided with a desk and computer at placement site and cannot work remotely)*: 301 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511

- **Website**: uri.yale.edu

- **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)*: Chris Ozyck, Associate Director

- **Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor**: (203)-627-0178, Christopher.Ozyck@yale.edu

- **Placement dates** *(8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 26 and Friday, August 7, 2020)*: May 12 - August 8, 2020 with an unpaid week off June 30 - July 4, 2020

- **Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe**: No, we will need to start as early as possible to get the students trained in time to coincide with the community’s need to start their summer plantings.

- **Proposed work schedule** *(placements should be equivalent to full-time and not more than 37.5 hours/week)*: Tuesday – Saturday, flexible hours, 40 hours/week

- **Organization description** *(mission statement, population served. 150 words or less.)*:
URI is a nonprofit Yale University partnership that transforms people and places through urban greening. URI hires six to seven community foresters for its Community Greenspace program each summer. Two positions are reserved for PPSF fellows. Through this program, URI works with 50 New Haven community groups to replant, restore, and reclaim the urban environment each summer. URI community foresters work in middle and low-income neighborhoods throughout the city in partnership with neighborhood residents, city officials, and non-profit agencies to revitalize New Haven communities by restoring neighborhood open spaces and streetscapes. URI foresters receive training in urban forestry, project planning, site assessment, social forestry, and research techniques.

- **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 program’s goals are conducting resident-led environmental restoration, building community, and fostering stewardship and civic empowerment. URI fellows provide technical and material support to 6 community groups doing environmental rehabilitation (tree planting, vacant lot restoration, and leaded soil remediation).

- **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.)**

Community Greenspace is a city-wide environmental restoration program. The Greenspace program enables neighborhood organizations to undertake community-based, as well as private, tree planting, care and maintenance. Depending on community interests and applications to the program, projects include planting street trees, maintaining public parks, converting abandoned lots to "pocket" parks, as well as tree, bush and flower planting and soil lead abatement activities on private property.
New Haven, like most urban areas, has many assets. In every neighborhood there are residents who are committed to improving the quality of city life. URI community foresters, through the Community Greenspace Program, work with local residents with the goals of conducting environmental restoration, building community, and fostering stewardship and civic empowerment.

URI foresters receive extensive training in urban forestry, project planning, site assessment, social forestry, and research techniques. In turn, URI community foresters provide both technical and material support to communities. Each forester works with up to seven community groups. Each community group sets environmental restoration goals at the beginning of the summer and works regularly (weekly, more or less) to reach the goals. A typical day begins with meetings with other interns and URI leadership to prepare for Greenspace group work days. Interns facilitate community visioning with volunteers to develop and implement neighborhood envisioned plans. Throughout the day and evening,
interns deliver trees, plants, and materials to their groups and work alongside community members to accomplish their goals. The exact nature of the work will depend on the individual needs and opportunities of each neighborhood site. In general, community forestry interns will train community members in tree inventory, species choices, planting site selection, site preparation (including soil testing, erosion control measures, and enrichment through addition of compost), tree maintenance (watering, mulching, pruning, etc.), and planting methods. Training sessions will be conducted in small community workshops, as well as in individual or small group training activities.

URI foresters are responsible for maintaining and reporting data on community participation, plant materials used, survival statistics of trees planted the previous year, and lead abatement activities. Foresters work as a team sharing tools, trucks, and other resources.

- **List specific skills/experience required for the project:**

The community forestry interns must have:

- one or more of the following: education, experience, passion, and/or commitment to environmental management and commitment to bringing these skills to urban areas;
- an ability to work with varied organizations and individuals; and
- excellent communication and writing skills, as documentation is an integral component of this project.
• Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). If a car is required, include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement): A valid driver’s license is required. Weekends for this internship are Sundays and Mondays. Interns must work Tuesday-Saturday.

• 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.

URI has been hiring Yale students in partnership with PPSF as Community Greenspace foresters in New Haven since the summer of 1995. In total 160+ foresters (approximately 50 PPSF) have helped to plant 2,781 trees and revitalize and strengthen 303 communities in New Haven.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: We have many articles and reports in our office and on our website, which give more in-depth descriptions of our work. To learn more about the program, please visit our website’s Greenspace page: uri.yale.edu/programs/greenspace and call Chris at 203-432-6189 or e-mail him: christopher.ozyck@yale.edu.