

Project:	Expanding Access, Cultural Footprint
Organization:	Central District Forum for Art & Ideas
Location:	Seattle, WA [Fellow will work remotely]
Stipend:	\$60,000 per year, plus health insurance and professional development funding
Start Date:	September or October 2020

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas is a nonprofit organization solely dedicated to presenting emerging Black arts, artists, and ideas in the Seattle area. We believe in the value of community, creativity, identity and passion. These values serve as our strategic frame and guide day-to-day operations and program decisions. Our mission is to provide a platform for provocative arts and ideas that foster awareness of and involvement in Black experiences.

CD Forum celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2019, and much has changed since our founding. The city of Seattle looks drastically different, especially as it concerns the Central District. Gentrification has displaced many of the Black residents that called the CD their home for so many years. As Seattle has evolved, so too has CD Forum. The escalation of police brutality and racism in our country seems to permeate our newsfeeds nonstop. There are times where it feels almost impossible to hear through all of the noise. CD Forum creates safe spaces for Black artists to heal, create, and offer a counterpoint to these challenging times. To learn more about CD Forum, visit <https://www.cdforum.org/>.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Leading Edge Fellow will play a leading role in helping CD Forum navigate evolving conditions in our community, including gentrification, state violence, economic dislocation, and social distancing related to Covid-19. The fellow will lead a research effort that helps CD Forum better understand the needs of potential audience members dispersed throughout the region and the state. The fellow will conduct surveys and community outreach to learn more of the opportunities for CD Forum live and virtually. Working with the entire CD Forum family (artists, staff, contractors, partners, etc.), the fellow will become an integral member of our team, gaining a synoptic view of the organization and contributing to its overall operations and programming. By the end of the fellowship, the fellow will have produced a comprehensive report on the needs of potential artists and partners and will have scoped a strategic plan for CD Forum to improve its outreach and engagement. This fellowship will be of interest to PhDs seeking to explore careers in research, community outreach, virtual programming, project management, and nonprofit administration. The fellowship tenure is 12 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

This position is *only* available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program. You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.

Responsibilities and Tasks:

- Research how content engagement and consumption patterns vary across communities in Washington
- Conduct surveys and interviews with CD Forum stakeholders to understand the evolving needs of artists and audiences we serve, particularly in the era of social distancing
- Establish networks with online communities and build partnerships with appropriate organizations, within and outside the cultural and civic sectors reporting;
- Research modes of virtual programming and engagement and devise opportunities to pilot and evaluate promising methods
- Create a strategic engagement plan to increase CD Forum's reach and help it fulfill its mission

Qualifications:

- PhD in any humanities field that draws primarily upon art historical or visual culture approaches
- Strong project management skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, and the ability to convey information effectively and to write persuasively for a variety of audiences
- Disposition toward listening and an eagerness to understand the perspectives of others
- Interest in Black arts and culture
- Penchant for being highly organized and a self-starter
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate well with others and develop and maintain positive working relationships.

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: <https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships>
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: 9pm EDT, July 31, 2020.

This position is *only* available through the ACLS Leading Edge Fellows program.
You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.