

Project:	Centering Care in the Arts
Organization:	Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art
Location:	North Adams, MA [Fellow will work remotely]
Stipend:	\$60,000 per year, plus health insurance and professional development funding
Start Date:	September or October 2020

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Founded in 1999 in North Adams, MA, and located in a historic mill complex, the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) seeks to catalyze and support the creation of new art, expose its visitors to bold visual and performing art during all stages of production, and re-invigorate the life of a region in socioeconomic need. www.massmoca.org.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Located in an arts-rich yet economically challenged area of Western Massachusetts, the museum seeks to partner with a humanities PhD to design innovative public programming and forward equity and inclusivity partnerships among MCLA and other local community organizations and individuals. The Leading Edge Fellow will serve a vital role to develop the project's outreach both to the rural community of the Berkshires and to the extended urban populations that we serve. Potential community partners who represent other sites of work include the Berkshire Community Resource Center, which is MCLA's center for community engagement, and Soul Fire Farm, Multicultural BRIDGE, Roots Rising, and Northern Berkshire Community Coalition.

The fellow will contribute to the MASS MoCA/MCLA Care Syllabus, which aims to generate civic discourse and public engagement about COVID-19 through accessible and free online programming. The syllabus takes an integrative approach that brings unconventional educators who operate outside the academy in conversation with broader publics as well as traditional academics. Drawing on an anti-oppressive pedagogical framework that addresses the problem of access to such cultural programming (much of which has been cancelled since the pandemic), the fellow will develop a virtual project that will be free and accessible to the public, creating offerings specifically geared for local community members, and designing elements of the project that will extend the project's reach and relevance for nearby urban populations especially affected by COVID-19. The fellow will help design and organize the Care Syllabus's counter pedagogical model that breaks from typical hierarchical structures of academia. The fellow will work with the "guest curators" of each of the modules to develop their content and conceive of its most accessible presentation online. Among invited "guest curators" are artist, activist, writer, performer, and educator Leah Lakshmi-Piepzna Samarsinha and multi-media artist Wendy Red Star (Apsáalooke/Crow). The fellow will evaluate the impact of this type of programming which will form the basis of a sustainability plan with a tested framework for the modules.

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

In addition to the Care Syllabus, the fellow will develop virtual content and experiences based on the museum's exhibitions for adult audiences, and create opportunities for academics and community groups to use the museum's facilities and exhibitions to design their own virtual lessons either live or as video presentations. Additional responsibilities may include soliciting funding, organizing a publication of the resulting content, and planning for an in-person culminating symposium as conditions allow. New avenues may appear given the selected fellow's particular interests and background, and MASS MoCA is open to co-designing further planks of this project in conjunction with the Leading Edge Fellow. The fellowship tenure is twelve consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

Qualifications:

- PhD in art history or other humanities field that draws primarily upon art historical or visual culture approaches;
- Strong desire to explore the use of humanities topics and resources for public/community engagement;
- Commitment to advocacy and equity with evidence of research interests that align contemporary art with an anti-oppressive pedagogical model;
- Willingness to try new ideas and work as part of a team among the museum, college, artists, and community;
- An understanding of how to apply technology as a teaching tool is a definite must with possible training in the digital humanities
- Strong writing and communication skills for a general public.

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.