

# Yale University

## President's Public Service Fellowship

### Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2023

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#### Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	The Connecticut Children's Museum
<i>Full street address</i>	22 Wall Street New Haven, CT 06511
<i>Website or link to social media page</i>	<a href="https://childrensbuilding.org">https://childrensbuilding.org</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/connecticutchildrensmuseum">https://www.facebook.com/connecticutchildrensmuseum</a>

#### PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

*The supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis.*

<i>Name</i>	Jess Bialecki
<i>Title</i>	Executive Director
<i>Cell phone number</i>	203-687-5309
<i>E-mail address</i>	creatingkids@snet.net

#### Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 30, 2023 through Friday, August 11, 2023)

The PPSF Fellow may work for any 8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 30, 2023 and Friday, August 11, 2023.

#### Are placement dates flexible? Are there any dates on which your Fellow must work?

Placement dates are flexible.

#### Proposed work schedule (work week should equal and not exceed 37.5 hours per week)

The PPSF Fellow will ideally work from 8:00AM-5:30PM Monday through Friday, with an hour for lunch each day and one shortened 8:30-12:00 day per week (totaling 37.5 hours per week). However, if the Fellow prefers, there is also

potential for remote work in evenings or weekends (in lieu of some in-person hours during the workweek).

**Organization description (*mission statement, population served. 1,000 characters or less*)**

The Connecticut Children's Museum building houses three programs, interwoven in purpose and philosophy: Creating Kids Childcare Center, the Museum itself, and the Early Childhood Resource Center. Each is inspired by psychologist Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences.

Creating Kids Childcare Center is an accredited, full-time, not-for-profit, ethnically- and economically-diverse program dedicated to serving the needs of children ages 6 weeks to preschool age and their families in an urban setting.

The Connecticut Children's Museum offers a space for children to experience the magic of learning at their own pace. Children can interact with themed exhibits built to their size and specifications, and schools and early childhood programs are able to extend their learning on Museum field trips.

The Museum also offers regular professional development workshops and a plethora of curriculum resources for New Haven-area educators through the Early Childhood Resource Center.

**Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting (500 characters or less).**

Our PPSF Fellow will have two primary areas of work this summer:

1. The Fellow will work directly with children by supporting educators in Creating Kids' classrooms to implement our play-based learning curriculum and build early literacy skills; and
2. The Fellow will work directly with the Museum's Executive Director to support the strategic, operational, and management needs of the umbrella non-profit organization, including by reimagining and redeveloping our outdoor learning area.

**Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow.**

Our PPSF Fellow this summer will have the opportunity both to work directly with children in the Creating Kids classrooms and to support the strategic, operational, and administrative needs of the larger non-profit organization. While directly engaging with children in Creating Kids' early childhood classrooms, the PPSF Fellow will: (1) implement our themed play-based

learning curriculum in the classroom, (2) read stories to and with children to promote their early literacy skills, (3) guide children through the Museum's exhibits and learning activities, (4) lead children in outdoor learning activities, and (5) receive mentoring from Creating Kids' experienced educators, the majority of whom have worked in the center for decades.

The PPSF Fellow will also have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the strategic, operational, and management aspects of non-profit leadership, under the direct supervision of Executive Director Jess Bialecki. Jess is a New Haven native and Yale alum (Silliman 2008), as well as a PPSF alum (Common Ground High School 2005). She previously served as the Senior Director of Policy for Early Childhood Education for the City of New York, and she is excited to provide mentorship to Yale students interested in early childhood and education policy. The Museum's PPSF Fellow will have the opportunity to assist with critical ongoing non-profit management work, including grant writing and reporting and fundraising, and will be able to accompany Jess to New Haven Early Childhood Council meetings to gain a broader understanding of the local early childhood policy and advocacy landscape.

In addition to supporting this ongoing non-profit management work, the primary strategic and operational project the Fellow will work on during the summer is reimagining and redeveloping the organization's expanded outdoor learning area. We are fortunate to have a small interior courtyard and outside play yard for the use of Creating Kids and the Museum, but this area has not been updated in many years. With our expanded understanding from the COVID-19 pandemic of the importance of outdoor learning, we are eager to reimagine this area and invest in a developmentally-appropriate, enriching outdoor learning space. The Fellow will gather input from stakeholders, including teachers and families; research other early childhood programs' outdoor learning areas; and identify new materials and equipment for the space. They will use Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences to guide their design, but the Fellow will have significant agency in designing and implementing their vision. By the end of the summer, the Fellow will have created something that will impact the lives of young children at Creating Kids and the Museum for generations to come.

### **List specific skills/experience required for the project**

Interest in early childhood education and policy, as well as non-profit management and leadership

Patience

Flexibility

Creativity

A sense of fun and humor!

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

None

**Briefly describe any 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.**

The Connecticut Children's Museum has hosted multiple PPSF Fellows in the past, and these Fellows have contributed in extraordinary ways to our organization. Fellows have worked closely with children in the Creating Kids Childcare Center, accompanied the Director to New Haven Early Childhood Council meetings to shape local early childhood policy and programming, and developed high-quality early childhood curricula aligned with the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards. Fellows have also engaged in Museum-based projects in partnership with New Haven Head Start programs and worked on literacy mentoring projects with local family childcare providers. In addition to hosting PPSF Fellows, Creating Kids and the Connecticut Children's Museum host several Yale undergraduate and graduate students each year as student staff members through the Federal Work Study program. We have also hosted a Dwight Hall Summer Fellow and a Dwight Hall Urban Fellow. Our Yale students are an integral part of the work we do each day!