

Yale University

President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2023

Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	Ely Center of Contemporary Art
<i>Full street address</i>	51 Trumbull St
<i>Website or link to social media page</i>	@ecoca_nhv www.elycenter.org

PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

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

<i>Name</i>	Debbie Hesse
<i>Title</i>	Curator and Board Vice President
<i>Cell phone number</i>	203 804-9581
<i>E-mail address</i>	dhesse@elycenter.org

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

June 5-August 11, flexible

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

Yes, an earlier start and finish is possible.

Worldwide Make Music Day, June 21, will entail evening hours

An occasional Sunday afternoon for an opening reception will be helpful

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

11-6pm, with an occasional Sunday 1-3 pm.

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

The Ely Center is New Haven's oldest arts center, located in a 1898 Elizabethan-style house that once belonged to a Yale professor. Now it operates as a community hub offering free and low-cost arts programs to the community, always focused on the critical issues of our time. Our hallmark annual Open Call program drew more than 400 artists to participate. Our well-attended opening receptions draw people of all ages from across New Haven and beyond and who represent a diverse cross section of our community. We ensure all artists have access to professional advancement, by gearing our work to support independent, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, senior, differently-abled emerging artists (by emerging, we mean those who don't have commercial gallery representation) through exhibitions, public programming, artist talks, cohort-building through artist residencies, and whenever our budget allows, through direct funding.

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

The Fellow will help create the public-facing profile of our 2023-2024 season. Whether through graphic design, style guides, video, exhibition design, and other visual display of information, OR, through writing, copy, tag lines, interviews, podcasts, or other digital and text-based materials, the Fellow will position ECOCA's upcoming exhibitions and programs for maximum engagement, participation, and impact.

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

ECOCA operates in a historic house on Trumbull Street, and that house recently became our permanent home. To mark this new chapter, we will focus all of our 2023-2024 cultural programs around issues relating to housing. This represents a new strategy with a long lead time to be able to build out partnerships with other agencies and peer organizations, and the Fellow will be at the center of this organizing. Our goal is to invite artists to develop, create and present work that illuminates and advances our understanding of issues such as displacement, gentrification, redlining, homelessness, sanctuary, and--in the face of climate emergencies--what is the future of architecture of dwellings. ECOCA will be partnering with several organizations who work to alleviate problems of housing affordability and sustainability to develop our public programs.

The Fellow will assist by developing and executing a communications strategy that conveys and explains the exhibiting artists' research and creative process,

and the issues that underpin their work. Depending on the Fellow's skills, this could be via graphic design of posters, publications, exhibition identities, interiors, and wall text, facade activation via banners, and other collateral material, or it could be in the shaping of external messaging, or in organizing special community events that bring people together through food, stories, and performances. At the end of the summer, the Fellow will be part of a small team that organizes ECOCA's annual Block Party, when Trumbull Street will once again be closed to cars for outdoor interactive arts activities and a scavenger hunt, and when the house will be given over to 9-10 diverse artist-collectives from the region.

List specific skills/experience required for the project

REQUIRED

Sense of humor, flexibility, and outgoing, gregarious attitude, ability to speak in front of groups, and make visitors feel welcome

Strong writing skills

Attention to detail

A take-charge, entrepreneurial spirit

Experience in some form of community development work (e.g. grass-roots organizing, advocacy, youth enrichment, outdoor festivals)

Commitment to the principles of anti-racism, trans-inclusiveness, and to the work of removing systemic obstacles to racial, economic, and cultural equity.

WELCOME

Web/Typography/Design (Adobe Suite), Photo/Film/Radio (content origination and editing/post-production) event production and/or Sound/Video/Projection experience

Spanish fluency

Exposure to the contemporary visual arts, art history, live arts/theater, urban studies, public humanities (theory and/or practice).

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.

Jason Najjoun was an MFA/MBA in the Theater Management program at Yale School of Drama/School of Management. As a 2016 Fellow, he helped write several major grants which were transformative for the organization. Today he is Managing Director of Imagination Stage and continues to stay in touch with us.