

Yale University

President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2024

Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	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>	https://www.childrensbldg.org

PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

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

What is the best way for prospective student applicants to contact you with questions about your proposal?

- Send an e-mail with questions

or

- Send an e-mail to set up a 15-minute phone call to discuss

Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 28, 2024 through Friday, August 9, 2024)

Our PPSF Fellow may work for any 8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 28, 2024 and Friday, August 9, 2024.

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

Placement dates are flexible. This summer, we are closed on June 19, July 4, and July 5. We can work around any meeting requirements of the Fellowship.

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

We are open from 8:00AM-5:30PM Monday through Friday. Our Fellow will ideally work four full days each week (with an hour for lunch), and one shortened 8:30AM-12:00PM day per week (for a total of 37.5 hours per week). If interested (optional), there is also the potential for our Fellow to work some Saturday afternoon hours in the Museum (in lieu of some hours during the work week).

If a hybrid schedule is offered at your site, please describe:

We work primarily in-person. However, if our Fellow is interested (optional), there is the potential for some remote work in evenings or weekends (in lieu of some in-person hours during the work week, not exceeding a total of 37.5 hours per week).

Organization description

The Connecticut Children's Museum 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 a full-time, not-for-profit, NAEYC-accredited, ethnically- and economically-diverse program dedicated to serving the needs of children ages 6 weeks to preschool age and their families. 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 literacy-based Museum field trips. Through the Early Childhood Resource Center, the Museum offers regular professional development workshops and a plethora of curriculum resources for New Haven-area early childhood educators.

Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting.

Our Fellow will have two primary areas of work: 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 have opportunities to work directly with the Museum's Executive Director to support the strategic needs of the umbrella nonprofit organization and to identify new ways to incorporate the Theory of Multiple Intelligences into our programming.

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

Our Fellow will have the opportunity to:

1. Work directly with children and teachers in the Creating Kids classrooms; and
2. Support the strategic needs of our larger nonprofit organization, the Connecticut Children's Museum.

While working in Creating Kids, the Fellow will participate fully in the life of the classroom as a critical member of our team of educators (always under the supervision of one of our lead teachers). Responsibilities will include to:

- Implement our innovative play- and project-based learning curriculum with small groups and individual children.
- Plan and implement activities to promote children's early literacy skills.
- Lead children in daily outdoor learning activities.
- Guide children through the Museum's exhibits and learning activities on at least a weekly basis.
- Engage in reflection with and mentoring from Creating Kids' experienced educators, the majority of whom have worked in early childhood for decades.

Over the course of the summer, the Fellow will have opportunities to take on pedagogical leadership roles in the classroom setting and to design meaningful, curriculum-aligned learning experiences for children.

The Fellow will also have opportunities to gain hands-on experience in the strategic aspects of non-profit leadership and to gain a broader understanding of the local early childhood policy and advocacy landscape in Greater New Haven, under the direct supervision of our organization's Executive Director. As part of our mission at the Connecticut Children's Museum, we seek to incorporate Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences into all aspects of our early childhood programming. In partnership with the Executive Director, staff, and other community stakeholders, the Fellow will engage in a needs assessment to identify new opportunities to bring the Theory of Multiple Intelligences to life in our eight indoor Museum exhibit spaces as well as in our outdoor play space.

The Fellow will then take the lead on designing and testing out new features for these spaces and sourcing the necessary materials.

List any specific skills/experience required for the project

- Energy, patience, flexibility, and a sense of fun and humor are prerequisites to working in early childhood!
- This opportunity is ideal for someone with a strong interest in early education, child development, and/or early childhood policy.
- Prior experience working with young children (such as babysitting, camp counseling, etc.) is helpful, but not required.

Additional requirements

We are located in easy walking distance of the Yale campus, so no car is required. We do have staff parking if the Fellow has a car they wish to use to commute to/from our site.

The State of Connecticut requires all adults working with our children to have a background check completed, including fingerprints. We will support the Fellow in completing this prior to arriving to work at our site, and we will cover all costs.

Briefly describe any work that Yale PPSF Fellows and/or 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 Creating Kids and developed high-quality early childhood curricula aligned with the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CT ELDS). Fellows have also supported our reaccreditation process with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), engaged in Museum-based projects in partnership with New Haven Head Start programs, worked on literacy mentoring projects with local family childcare providers, and secured new sources of grant funding for the Museum. In addition to hosting PPSF Fellows, Creating Kids and the Connecticut Children's Museum host multiple Yale undergraduate and graduate students each year as student staff members through the Federal Work Study program. We have also hosted Dwight Hall Summer Fellows and Dwight Hall Urban Fellows. Our Yale fellows and student staff members are an integral part of the work we do each day!