

# Yale University

## President's Public Service Fellowship

### Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2024

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#### 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 <a href="http://www.elycenter.org">www.elycenter.org</a>

#### PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

<i>Name</i>	Aimée Burg
<i>Title</i>	Gallery Coordinator
<i>Cell phone number</i>	718 614-8118
<i>E-mail address</i>	<a href="mailto:aburg@elycenter.org">aburg@elycenter.org</a>

**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
- Contact the person below with questions about this proposal:

[info@elycenter.org](mailto:info@elycenter.org)

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

Flexible

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

Flexible. Some Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons will be required.

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

Flexible to include Wednesday 12-5, Thursday 3-8 pm, and occasional Sundays 12-5

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

Hybrid. Yes, some of the work week can be WFH

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

ECOCA operates in a historic house on Trumbull Street as a lively contemporary arts center. We serve both artists and audiences, and present a rotating mix of experimental group and solo exhibitions, host live painting sessions, and free family art making activities. We recently launched a small scale residency programs that activates the old servants quarters. Our mission is to build community and promote dialogue through the arts and we aim to be a place of transformation and discovery. ECOCA believes that artists contribute to the betterment of society, and that the arts intersect with almost every major issue in New Haven.

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

The Fellow will join a small hardworking team of artists and community organizers to help run the organization. The Fellow will select one or two projects that align with their interests and talents and serve as lead coordinator for those initiatives, representing the organization in the community. By the end of the summer, you will be a stronger advocate for the resources needed for the arts and culture to flourish in society.

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

The Fellow will select from one or more of the following projects:

- Visible Mending: A community weaving project for the healing professions. Many cultures believe in the healing, therapeutic, and meditative benefits of weaving. Led by three esteemed artists representing

different continents who are breathing new life into traditional crafts, this project will invite the diverse diaspora of cultures working and training in the healing professions in New Haven to participate in the co-creation of large-scale artworks that represent these global traditions. An exhibition of resulting work would celebrate both the creativity and the often unheralded labor of caregivers at project partners Smilow Cancer Center, CT Mental Health Center and Yale Medicine. More than 20 countries are represented by the Nursing staff at Yale-New Haven Hospital alone, ensuring a truly international participation in the project.

- Soil & Water & Wind (Towards Natural Materials for the Arts). The Fellow would help ECOCA develop community programs, workshops and exhibits that highlight sustainable, climate-friendly and indigenous practices. Think mushrooms, seaweed, berries, and bark. Organized as both a climate emergency manifesto and an antidote to consumption, Natural Materials for the Arts finds inspiration in carbon-neutral, nature-based, and regenerative practices and innovations. The Fellow will help organize artist-led teaching and learning events that will accelerate adoption of Green practices and help ECOCA deepen its partnerships with New Haven's Climate Office, Composting, Upcycling and Recycling initiatives, and New Haven's Youth Climate Movement.
- Old in Art School exhibition. Inspired by historian Nell Painter's pursuit of an MFA in her late 50s and her best-selling book by the same name, this exhibition will bring together a group of artists who experienced a graduate arts education in their fifth, sixth and even seventh decade. The Fellow will help with outreach to art schools across the country to unearth these courageous artists, gather images and stories, and help craft a grant proposal for an exhibition to the National Endowment for the Arts. Prof. Painter has agreed to participate.
- Artsy Art Sales Project: If you are interested in the business of art this placement is for you. ECOCA is analyzing how to increase the sales of artworks and is contemplating partnering with the global art sales platform Artsy, either directly or through a sister organization. This project will evaluate the costs, upside, and implement a first pilot sales initiative. The goal is to help emerging artists boost their income.
- New Identity Project. In early 2024, ECOCA will craft a new medium term strategic plan with a freshened mission statement and priorities. A Design Student will help give visual form to the organization's new tagline, message, strategies and help roll a new identity on social media, in print and throughout our physical and online spaces.
- Open Call 2024. Each year ECOCA opens the door to artist submissions and uses the 500+ entries to select artists for its in person and online

exhibitions. This Placement will involve helping organize all the submission by theme and practice, working with the staff to correspond with artists to help conceptualize and organize upcoming shows.

**List any 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.
- Belief that artists and works of art can help illuminate social issues and point to new ideas and outcomes.

**WELCOME BUT NOT REQUIRED**

- 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**

Some weekend work.

**Briefly describe any work that Yale PPSF Fellows and/or Yale students have done with your organization.**

Jason Najjoun was an MBA/MFA in Theater Management at Yale School of Drama/School of Management. As a 2016 Fellow, he helped write several major grants which were transformative for the organization. He leads a theater organization today.

Xin Yi Liu is an MFA in Graphic Design at the Yale School of Art. She created style and design guides to improve our exhibition signage and our social media user interface, and co curated an ambitious exhibition of over 25 emerging

artists. The exhibition remained on view for 2 months and served as backdrop for several free family art programs for the community.