

Ely Center of Contemporary Art

@ John Slade Ely House Galleries

Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Yale Fellowship Placement • Summer 2021 • Revised 11/5/20

Organization

Friends of the John Slade Ely House of Contemporary Art, Inc.
DBA as Ely Center of Contemporary Art

Address

51 Trumbull Street, New Haven, CT 06510

Website

<https://www.elycenter.org>

Supervisor

Debbie Hesse, Vice President Board of Directors

Supervisor phone and e-mail

203-804-9561, dhesse@elycenter.org

Flexible placement dates

Tuesday, June 1, 2021 thru Friday, August 13, 2021

We are able to accommodate a Fellow working in a different time zone.

Flexible work schedule

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 12–8 pm, Tuesday 10 am–4 pm, Sunday 12:30-4:30 pm.

Placement Description

Organization description

The Ely Center of Contemporary Art's mission is to ensure the continuation of its essential identity as a vibrant arts center bringing together and collaborating with its community around curatorial practice that initiates and instigates *issues, ideals, and innovations* to explore the human condition and to address a larger cultural context of interests in more open and inclusive dialogues.

Project description

The Fellow will be introduced to all aspect of the art center operations including curatorial and community cultural engagement work. They will work directly with the executive board and interface with staff, volunteers and participating artists, plan upcoming exhibitions and conceptualize and organize cultural events such as panel discussions, performances, and workshops. This summer we anticipate that we will continue to work from a hybrid model with some programs on site and many others virtual.

Duties/outcomes

The PPS Fellow will be trained in curatorial development and management. We will teach our Fellow the practical skills and address some of the theoretical concerns that inform contemporary curatorial practice. Virtual programs and events that have evolved in response to the pandemic have allowed us to grow a global community that we hope our Fellow will tap into to broaden and deepen dialogues and new programmatic ventures:

- Facilitate the development of curatorial concept for upcoming exhibitions;
- Catalogue works of art and keep records;
- Carry out background research and writing catalog copy;
- Writing articles for the website, publications and social media;
- Conduct interviews with artists and community members;
- Planning, organizing, interpreting and presenting exhibitions and lectures;
- Collaborating with other community partners, on education, fundraising, marketing and scheduling;
- Handling inquiries from researchers and the public;
- Dealing with, and understanding, digital imagery, ecommerce software as part of social media and outreach;
- Staff training, promotion and development;
- Liaising with voluntary groups, community and industry (including schools, local history and other community groups);
- Liaising with Ely Center boards members;
- Networking with other arts organizations, professionals and outside agencies.
- Document work product and interactions with the public, photograph still and moving images for website and social media.

Desired skills/experience

- All communications skills including writing of press releases
- Interpersonal and organizational skills
- An interest in the arts and in the intersection of arts and social justice.
- Interested in learning about and working with New Haven's arts community.
- Website and video skills a plus but not required.

Additional requirements

- We will provide our PPSF with their own e-mail address and access to an Ely Center cell phone number.
- They will be expected to participate in Zoom meetings on a regular basis.
- No car or weekend hours are required of the Fellow.

Past Yale PPSF Fellows

In 2016, after a year-long campaign and court-challenge with stakeholders and shareholders, Andrew Wolf, Director of New Haven Cultural Affairs Office, shared a PPS Fellow assigned to his office with the Friends, who helped shape our start-up initiative. Jason helped to organize and build our executive tools and strategies, set up a Google Administrative account for the Executive Board, advised the executive board about governance, and how to work as a team.

In 2017, a PPS Fellow was once again shared by Andrew Wolf's office for an exhibition titled *Broad Stripes and Bright Stars* (see examples) to work directly with Ely Center curatorial collaborators, Aicha Woods and Dave Coons. Over 100 artists exhibiting work and lead to many relevant program events. Molly, PPS Fellow, set up and scheduled a number of workshops, artist talks, performances, and facilitated and coordinated the opening and closing receptions of the exhibition.

In 2019, ECOCA was assigned Fellow Jacqueline Blaska, who worked directly with our staff member, interns from the CT Office of the Arts, and volunteer summer staff.

Jacqueline was an outstanding fellow. She took the initiative to conduct research and write up a project overview for an exhibition *Extra/Almost Human* that will take place in 2020. She also worked on a Connecticut Office of the Arts Project Grant which we subsequently received. Jacqueline worked extremely well with staff, board members, volunteers and participating artists and greatly contributed to the overall production and positive environment at ECOCA. Her interactions with our summer Artists-in-Residence was always thoughtful and appropriate. She conducted theater improv "break the ice" activities with residents to help them acclimate and lent daily support as well. Jacqueline was a pleasure to work with and we are thrilled that she will stay involved with the Ely Center during the year through her attendance at receptions and programs as well as a planned performance this winter.

Jax, as we came to call her, was a highly motivated, thoughtful and generous Fellow. Jax worked closely with the Ely Center Board of Directors, staff and volunteers attending staff meetings, meetings with various arts and non-profit groups and interacting with artists who were participating in our summer artist residency program. She helped research, develop and write a significant grant application that we subsequently received due to her efforts. Jax worked on:

- Grantwriting
- Events
- Programming

To summarize, each YPPS Fellow has provided an enormous cultural contribution and great service to the Ely Center and to the City.

The following is the work of YPPS Fellows, Molly FitzMaurice (2017) and Jacqueline Blaska (2019). For more of Jacqueline's participation, please see our website <https://elycenter.org>

Broad Stripes and Bright Stars : Examples of exhibition and programming for ECOCA impacted by PPS Fellowship.



Catalog <https://www.calameo.com/read/00407006715a4c704e008?authid=ktXqSNcPAWYb>



Neely Bruce and Friends sing the Bill of Rights (left) John O'Donnell performs in the backyard (right) at the opening.



Collage Workshop with Stanwyck Cromwell and Moussa Gueye (left) **Land of the Free? Think Tank's Jay Critchley** artist talk (right)



Graffiti Workshop with Dooley-O (left) and **Photo Transfer Workshop** with Christine Tinsley's mixed media project "SisterVet" (right)



Flag Weaving Workshop with Ruben Marroquin



Flag Retirement & Closing Celebration at our closing, collected flags were retired with proper burning in this special ceremony led by the VFW New Haven's Derek Torrellas, James Namnoun, and VFW Chaplain.

BROAD STRIPES STARS

Ely Center of
51 Trumbull Street, New
June 29, 2017 - August 13,



AND BRIGHT

Contemporary Art
Haven, CT
2017

EVENTS

Our series of artist-led and community-driven events brings the gallery walls to life. Join us for creative workshops and conversations. All are **free and open to the public**.

COLLAGE WORKSHOP Thursday July 20, 5pm

Featured artists Stanwyck Cromwell and Moussa Gueye will lead participants through a collage workshop. Gueye, a former IRIS client from Mauritania, and Cromwell, who immigrated from Guyana to Bloomfield, CT 40 years ago and has explored immigrant experience in his artistry through that time, will guide participants in translating identity into expression through the special art of collecting, juxtaposing, and collaging, which is integral to both artists' own work. While collage materials are provided, attendees are invited to bring images, objects, or clippings that they are significant, interesting, or inspiring to them.

OPEN FORUM ON THE FLAG & NEW AMERICANS Thursday July 20, 7pm

Featured artists Stanwyck Cromwell, Moussa Gueye, Gabriella Svenningsen, and Susan Clinard open a dialogue about their artistry as well as the flag's special meanings for immigrants, refugees, and New Americans. In this informal public forum, we welcome everyone in our community to join in the conversation.

GRAFFITI WORKSHOP Sunday July 23, 2pm

Featured artist Dooley-O, a hip hop and graffiti artist and the mastermind DJ/producer behind the Back Room, highlights the powerful contributions of graffiti to the exhibit and to our daily landscape in the city of New Haven. After an introductory discussion and demonstration on primed wood panels, Dooley-O will invite participants to try their hands, collaborating on a final group painting.

FLAG WEAVING WORKSHOP Wednesday July 26, 6pm & Sunday July 30, 2pm

Visual artist, textile designer, and weaving instructor Ruben Marroquin invites attendees of all ages and abilities to experience the unique joys of textile art and introductory weaving technique. Each participant will create their own unique woven flag using bamboo, yarn, and textiles, inspired by the artist's own intricate woven flags that grace the exhibit. Looms and materials provided.

PHOTO TRANSFER WORKSHOP Thursday July 27, 6pm

In featured artist Christine Tinsley's mixed media project "SisterVet," she honors the stories of women veterans through portraits on special handmade paper made from dress uniforms—melding fabric, memory, and beautiful images. Tinsley will share her practice with participants, guiding them through a "Purell transfer" process that transfers images to her handmade paper in unique, evocative, and sometimes surprising ways! All materials are provided for this fun and easy workshop, but participants are encouraged to bring a digital file of an image or photo to transfer.

LAND OF THE FREE? THINK TANK Wednesday August 2, 6pm

Artist, activist, and entrepreneur Jay Critchley will open a conversation on social practice as art. When Jay founded the Old Glory Condom Corporation, he redefined patriotism in the fight against HIV/AIDS and won a controversial three-year legal battle for its US Trademark, and that was only the beginning! In this practical, artist-led workshop on civically engaged art, community members from all backgrounds and experiences are invited to bring a new idea you're not sure how to execute, a project you'd like to pitch, or a work-in-progress for feedback!

FAMILY DAY Sunday August 6, 1pm-4pm

Though always open to all, on this day the exhibit extends an especially friendly welcome to young visitors, offering an interactive scavenger hunt to lead eager explorers through the gallery, prompting questions to deepen young viewers' engagement with the artwork, and design-your-own-flag coloring pages.

FREE YOGA FOR ALL IN THE GARDEN Sunday August 6, 2pm

108 Monkeys invites all bodies, ages, and abilities to move and breathe together in the Ely Center's charming backyard. Enliven a peaceful pursuit of social justice through yoga with instructor and Street Bodhi Xan McKnight—then step inside to reflect on the flag's potential for resistance and resilience. Mats are available if needed, but we encourage you to bring your own mat.

FLAG RETIREMENT & CLOSING CELEBRATION Sunday August 13, 1pm-4pm

Throughout the exhibit, community members are invited to bring in flags they wish to retire. At our closing, collected flags will be retired with proper burning in this special ceremony led by Derek Torrellas and James Namnoun, VFW New Haven Chaplain. ***Check back for more on our closing festivities!***

LEARN MORE & SHARE

<https://www.elycenter.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/broadstripesandbrightstarsart>

QUESTIONS? Contact event liaison Molly FitzMaurice at caintern@nehavenct.gov

***Our events are made possible through the generous support of
The Arts Council of Greater New Haven and Wells Fargo.***



THE ARTS COUNCIL OF
GREATER NEW HAVEN



Make Music Day, New Haven

Special Thanks to

Special thank you to Brian Williams for making the ECOCA event a high success and team effort. We could not have had today without you.

Special thank you to Susan Beest for our banners and t-shirts.

The Jitter Box (keeping us caffeinated)

The Arts Council (for coordinating Make Music Day New Haven)

Connecticut Office of the Arts & National Endowment for the Arts (for staff support)

Town Green (for giving us tents to stay dry)

JZ's (for their generous contribution of food for our performers)

East Rock Brewing Company (for supplying beers for our green room)

J&J, Jencks (for an incredible start design)

and

The entire Make Music New Haven volunteer board for all of their hard work and dedication to their community and music on this special day.



Ely Center of Contemporary Art

Main Stage

Jack O'Ryan - Singer
Robert D'Amico - DJ
Andrew D'Amico - DJ
Andrew D'Amico - DJ
Andrew D'Amico - DJ
Andrew D'Amico - DJ

Jack O'Ryan is a singer/songwriter. He has performed at various venues in the New Haven area. He is currently working on his second album. He has also performed at the Ely Center of Contemporary Art.

Robert D'Amico is a DJ. He has been performing at various venues in the New Haven area. He is currently working on his second album. He has also performed at the Ely Center of Contemporary Art.

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EC Ely Center of Contemporary Art added an event. June 2

MAKE MUSIC NEW HAVEN

FRI, JUN 21
Make Music Day at ECOCA
 Ely Center of Contemporary Art · New Haven, CT
 Debbie, Valerie and 6 friends
 Valerie Garlick, Joy Pepe and 2 others
 Like Comment

Write a comment...

EC Ely Center of Contemporary Art May 15

Spring is here, and it's gardening season! Looking for a place to swap some cuttings or seeds with fellow members of the New Haven community? Come to our Community Cut N' Swap & Seed Share! We want to generate an environment in which community members can come forward and exchange plant cuttings or saved seeds with one another, in the ecological spirit of Sea & Soil // Water Access.

If you are interested in participating, or are looking to drop off or donate cuttings/seeds, please reach out and let me know!

THU, JUN 6
Community Cut N' Swap & Seed Share
 Ely Center of Contemporary Art · New Haven, CT
 Debbie Hesse invited you
 Interested

EC Ely Center of Contemporary Art is at Ely Center of Contemporary Art. August 1 - New Haven, CT -

Join us at ECoCA tonight for another open studios Thursday, 5-8 pm, complete with another clothing swap from Saron Games! We got to catch up with Saron and talk to him a bit about why clothing swaps resonate with him: "I was introduced to clothing swaps through a queer organizing space that I was in, and the purpose behind it there was to give space and agency to people who may want to wear something that doesn't 'match' the gender that they were assigned at birth. Going int... See More



EC Ely Center of Contemporary Art is with Five Points Gallery and 2 others. August 6 -

ECoCA staff took a field trip up to Five Points Gallery in Torrington! Thank you so much to Five Points for being so welcoming and sitting down to talk with us about what we are each doing in our communities & our growth!



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Autofill

Autumn Hours at ECoCA: SAT/SUN/MON 1-4 pm, WED/THURS 5-8 pm

Ely Center of Contemporary Art
CONTEMPORARY CREATIVE COLLISIONS

EC
CONTEMPORARY CREATIVE COLLISIONS
oca

HIGHLIGHTS / OPEN CALL 2020

HIGHLIGHTS EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS INFO SUPPORT PRESS

20
OPEN CALL
20
ELYCENTER.ORG

