



PARTNERSHIP  
FOR THE  
PUBLIC GOOD



GObike  
BUFFALO



wny  
cosh  
western new york council on  
occupational safety and health



1199  
SEIU



JERICHO ROAD  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER



PUSH BUFFALO  
PEOPLE UNITED IN SUSTAINABLE HOUSING



WNY  
LAW CENTER



GRASSROOTS  
GARDENS WNY



HIGHROAD FELLOWSHIPS

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>FELLOWSHIP INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2020 PROSPECTIVE PLACEMENTS AND PROJECTS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1199SEIU .....	4
Arts Services Initiative .....	4
Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology .....	5
Center for Elder Law and Justice .....	6
Center for Employment Opportunities .....	6
Cooperation Buffalo.....	7
Cornell Cooperative Extension.....	7
FB Community Land Trust .....	8
GOBike.....	8
Grassroots Gardens .....	8
Habitat for Humanity.....	9
Jericho Road Community Health Center .....	10
Massachusetts Avenue Project .....	10
Partnership for the Public Good .....	11
PUSH Buffalo .....	12
Say Yes to Education Buffalo.....	12
Ujima Company .....	13
WNY Area Labor Federation .....	14
WNY Council on Occupational Safety and Health .....	14
WNY Law Center.....	15
WNY Library Resources Council .....	15
WNY Women's Foundation .....	16
Westminster Economic Development Initiative .....	16

## FELLOWSHIP INFORMATION

Application Deadline: January 31, 2020

Economic development can be a powerful tool to foster equitable growth, but too often traditional economic development programs focus on short-term gains and shortchange people of color, immigrants, and low-income communities. The term High Road economic development refers to policies and practices that advance economic vitality, sustainability, and equitable economic opportunity through innovation, productivity improvement, constructive labor management relations, environmental responsibility, efficient resource utilization, productive investment, and strong communities. Rooted in the traditional concept of "high road" as an ethically superior choice over "low road" ways, this application to economic development represents a vision of a better social economy.

### Place

Cornell ILR's extension history begins with Buffalo. Since 1946, ILR has played a vital role in the region, working in partnership with businesses, unions, government, education and community organizations to build an economy that works for all. High Road Fellowships were launched in 2009 as a new way to connect students with practitioners who were driving change in the local economy. Undergoing dynamic reinvention, Buffalo is home to a rich array of such creative community leaders and organizations tackling rust belt challenges.

### Program Logistics

Summer fellows in Buffalo work through June and July, earning a \$4,000 stipend for eight 37.5-hour weeks. Students are given a specific project with their host organizations, working 7.5 hours per day, Monday through Thursday. Every Friday the students as a group are immersed in the city life of Buffalo with neighborhood walking tours, field trips, cultural experiences, and discussions with guest experts and civic leaders. Friday's workshops are also forums for learning from each other by sharing weekly journals, project experiences, research and other accomplishments. Group housing arrangements are facilitated for those interested. A mandatory two credit pre-course will take place the second half of Spring 2020 in Ithaca to prepare students for their fieldwork.

### Community Partner

Each student is placed with a host organization affiliated with the Partnership for the Public Good, a civic organization made up of over 280 community partners promoting more equitable and sustainable economic development in Greater Buffalo. PPG produces action research and policy recommendations on pressing local, regional and state concerns. Students gain hands-on experiences working with organizations in the vital nonprofit sector of the economy where job creation, neighborhood revitalization, and the greening of the economy are everyday reality.

### Student Criteria

High Road Fellows are Cornell undergraduates interested in grassroots democracy and how individuals can help create a more equitable economy.

## 2020 PROSPECTIVE PLACEMENTS AND PROJECTS

### 1199SEIU

2421 Main Street Suite 100 Buffalo, NY 14214 | 716 995 3755 | [www.1199seiu.org](http://www.1199seiu.org)

**About** The Upstate/WNY Division of 1199SEIU is the voice of health care employees in western, central, and northern New York State. The region includes more than 23,000 healthcare workers at 29 hospitals, 70 long term care facilities and clinics, a home care agency, a physicians practice, and a business clerical group. 1199SEIU members in the region are leaders in raising standards for all healthcare workers. They have fought for and won contracts with good wages and yearly raises, employer paid health and pension benefits, a greater voice for workers, advancement for technical and professional employees, training and upgrading opportunities for all employees, job security and more.

**Project** Over the past two decades, the nursing home industry in New York State has moved away from locally owned and operated, non-profit or government-run homes. Various policies have led to for-profit, downstate or out-of-state corporations to buy up nursing homes across New York, more acutely affecting Upstate where union density and power is lower.

The task of the fellow will be to research and gain a comprehensive understanding of the public policies that led to this shift toward for-profit nursing homes. Then to research and map the current overlapping ownership of homes in WNY, third party services, connections to government entities, and the key figures in the industry.

The fellow's work will be three-fold: learning the day-to-day activities of an organizer in healthcare workers' union; performing corporate research on the uncharted, for-profit nursing home industry in New York State; and interviews with and narratives on nursing home workers' work and home lives.

The final project will be a macro and micro view on how this changing industry, to for-profit nursing homes in New York (as opposed to the previous government-run or non-profit homes as the norm) affects unionized, working class caregivers on the day-to-day.

### Arts Services Initiative

2495 Main Street, #422 Buffalo NY 14214 | 716 833 3004 x510 | [www.asiwny.org](http://www.asiwny.org)

**About** Arts Services Initiative of Western New York, Inc. (ASI) is a resource hub for the Western New York arts and cultural sector. They empower the region's artists and arts organizations with connections to funding, learning opportunities, and community access to the arts.

**Project** As many national studies have confirmed, the arts have a positive social impact and help eliminate barriers to health, wellness, education, social change, and inclusion in communities. ASI's Arts Access program was created in 2013 to help remove the financial and transportation barriers to the arts for individuals and families who receive any kind of income-based assistance through New York State.

The fellow will provide critical support and guidance from both a "boots on the ground" level and a planning perspective by:

- Researching how many individuals and families should be eligible Arts Access and compare with how many are utilizing the program;
- Surveying participants and cultural partners to put together a report on the impact of the program;
- Collecting testimonials from pass holders - this may include going to a community center/public location to meet participants and record video and/or audio testimonials;
- Designing/Creating a marketing campaign to raise awareness about the program and its impact in the community;
- Finding new arts and cultural organizations to partner with; and
- Conducting a landscape best practices search for similar programs across the country (how does this program compare, what new ideas can be shared).

## **Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology**

1221 Main Street Buffalo, NY 14209 | 716 259 1680 | [www.buffaloartstechcenter.org](http://www.buffaloartstechcenter.org)

**About** The primary vision of Buffalo Center for Arts & Technology (BCAT) is to provide community-enhancing tools to reduce the effect of poverty on families. The mission of BCAT, as part of Buffalo's economic revitalization is twofold:

- To keep youth in school through high school completion so they are able to take advantage of the postsecondary opportunities the "Say Yes" scholarship program makes available to them by offering high-quality and high-tech arts instruction and studio space.
- To assist unemployed or underemployed adults in securing jobs with wages sufficient to support a family through NYS Education Department-approved training programs that will lead to jobs in the healthcare industry.

**Project** The fellow will assist the college and career counselor by creating the foundation for a summer internship program for participating BCAT youth. The fellow will research local and national internship programs and take note of best practices and procedures. Once this information is compiled, the fellow will research local companies and organizations that work within the industries and businesses that would have opportunities for high school students interested in the visual and performing arts.

During this time, BCAT's 6-week summer program will be in session Monday-Thursday from 12pm-5pm. This will give the fellow a chance to work with BCAT youth directly, build a rapport with them, and discuss their needs. This will help inform constructing an internship program that best meets the needs of the youth and aligns with BCAT's culture and mission.

The final work product will be a handbook for the College and Career Counselor and all Youth Staff to use when implementing the annual internship program. The handbook will become a working document that will consist of best practices, policies and procedures, perspective internship site contact list, and placement logistics.

## Center for Elder Law and Justice

438 Main Street Suite 1200 Buffalo, NY 14202 | 716 853 3087 x277 | [www.elderjusticenyny.org](http://www.elderjusticenyny.org)

**About** It is the mission of Center for Elder Law & Justice to improve the quality of life for elderly, disabled and low-income persons in Western New York. It does so through the provision of free civil legal services, primarily to individuals age sixty and over as defined by the federal Older Americans Act, but also to younger disabled and low-income individuals, as funding permits. The organization's primary goal is to use the legal system to assure that its clients may live independently and with dignity.

**Project** CELJ recently launched a new initiative to improve the ability of nursing home residents in WNY to advocate for themselves to receive the best possible care. This will be accomplished by educating and empowering residents and their supporters through a three phase project. The High Road Fellow would start during phase two of the project, and be tasked with designing a resource guide for distribution in the community. The fellow's individual work product will be a resource guide including feedback gathered through surveys completed by residents, family members, and staff at area hospitals and nursing homes that CELJ is currently conducting. This spring the organization will be holding meetings and listening sessions to gather further input, and the materials developed by the fellow will compile this information into an informative product. The guide will include advocacy tips and answers to frequent questions raised by residents and their family members and supporters.

There would also be opportunity to work with our attorney and paralegal on delivering and presenting on content to local area hospitals, offices, nursing homes, and other community partners. Additionally, the fellow would be able to assist with the nursing home discharge tracking portion of the project.

## Center for Employment Opportunities

170 Franklin Street, Suite 701 Buffalo, NY 14202 | 716 842 6320 x501 | [www.ceoworks.org](http://www.ceoworks.org)

**About** For more than 30 years, the Center for Employment Opportunities' goal has been to provide immediate, comprehensive, and effective employment services for men and women returning from incarceration. CEO offers comprehensive employment services exclusively for people with criminal records. CEO's model is based on a highly structured program of life skill education, short-term paid transitional employment, full-time job placement, and post-placement services.

**Project** CEO is interested in having the fellow work on program evaluation for a specific population of clients. The project will involve a review and assessment to help improve outcomes for CEO participants ages 18—24. The fellow will create a survey for youth referred to CEO to complete that identifies self-reported barriers to employment. The fellow will have access to a Salesforce database that tracks participants and their employment post-CEO. The fellow will then look at reported barriers and help CEO staff and leadership craft potential solutions for implementation.

The fellow will also work with staff including the youth mentor and job developer to provide services in support of continued employment for this population. The fellow will have



opportunities to support advocacy initiatives, create workshops for participants and help with outreach if desired as well.

## Cooperation Buffalo

429 Plymouth Avenue Suite 1 Buffalo, NY 14213 | 716 884 0356 | [www.cooperationbuffalo.org](http://www.cooperationbuffalo.org)

**About** Cooperation Buffalo seeks to mobilize workers to achieve economic security through cooperative business ownership, generating wealth and power in communities most affected by inequality.

**Project** The fellow will conduct primary and secondary research to document and analyze the history of cooperative enterprises in Buffalo, NY with an emphasis on cooperatives founded by and for communities of color. This project is an explicit attempt to highlight the history of frontline communities in the narrative of Buffalo and the narrative of cooperative economics.

The final work product will include a database and archive of primary source materials (articles, archives, interviews) as well as a summary report or presentation narrating the histories that the fellow has uncovered during the project.

## Cornell Cooperative Extension

617 Main Street, Suite 300 Buffalo, NY 14203 | 716 652 5400 x142 | [www.erie.cce.cornell.edu](http://www.erie.cce.cornell.edu)

**About** Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County (CCE Erie) puts knowledge to work to build stronger communities. CCE Erie has been in operation for over 100 years and provides educational programs in Agriculture, 4-H Youth Development, Nutrition, and Consumer Horticulture. Currently over 20 staff work throughout the county on projects as diverse as agricultural business training, career and civic engagement with at-risk youth, youth livestock husbandry, gardening, a Farm to School project in partnership with the Buffalo Public School District, and nutrition education for SNAP-eligible populations.

**Project** The fellow will increase their understanding of the breadth of leadership programming for teens through direct engagement in the Erie County 4-H Program. The main focus of the work will be helping develop and implement a summer civic engagement program for at-risk teens in Buffalo. This 4-H program, called the Youth Community Action Network (Youth CAN), has been running for five years, during which time teen leaders have completed many projects in their communities, including: hosting a community & police speakout, providing recommendations to the Buffalo Public School District about how to improve student learning, improving recycling at school, hosting a civic engagement conference in Buffalo, and developing a documentary about how to address discrimination.

Work products will be a summer program plan for the six week teen summer leadership program and reflection on working with teens to develop and implement community initiatives.

Additional work may include continuing to develop and support teen leadership in implementing initiatives to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in our Erie County 4-H Program.

## FB Community Land Trust

1327 Jefferson Avenue Buffalo, NY 14208 | 716 587 2472

**About** The mission of the FB Community Land Trust is to create permanently affordable housing and generate community wealth through the collective ownership of land in the historic Fruit Belt neighborhood.

**Project** The fellow's work will help fight displacement and gentrification in the Fruit Belt as a result of increased rent and property taxes due to the expansion of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. FB Community Land Trust is a relatively new organization. The strategic plan project will involve urban planning research, policy analysis and exploring sustainable business models and partnerships between community land trusts (CLT's) and community development corporations (CDC's).

The fellow's work product will take the form of creating sustainable business models between CLT's and CDC's, developing best practices and sample MOU's. The fellow will review best practices by other CLTs from across the country and conduct interviews with stakeholders and experts.

## GOBike

640 Ellicott Street Buffalo, NY 14203 | 716 218 7161 | [www.gobikebuffalo.org](http://www.gobikebuffalo.org)

**About** GObike Buffalo is working to build a thriving, dynamic and connected Buffalo by promoting biking, alternative transportation options, and improved streetscapes to create positive impacts on health, our environment, our streets and the overall quality of life for all residents.

**Project** GObike is a strong advocate of Complete Streets, a nationwide effort to ensure that when a roadway is constructed or repaired in the City of Buffalo, equal consideration is given to commuters of all kinds – including bicyclists, pedestrians, public transportation users, children, people pushing baby strollers and the disabled. By accommodating all forms of transportation, Complete Streets by design contribute to a more equitable city.

The fellow will support this campaign by conducting community outreach through public events – hosting some and representing GObike at others - in order to build consensus and support for direct action on equitable Complete Streets improvements. The final work product will be a wider, more comprehensive Complete Streets Partnership Map that will inform GObike's work in tapping into emergent community leadership around human powered mode share of traffic.

## Grassroots Gardens

389 Broadway Buffalo, NY 14204 | 716 783 9653 | [www.grassrootsgardens.org](http://www.grassrootsgardens.org)

**About** Grassroots Gardens WNY stewards over 100 community gardens in the cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls, NY. A dedicated group of gardeners and activists, the organization's mission is to share knowledge, power, and resources to grow healthy food, heal systemic harm, and strengthen neighborhood connections through community gardens. In 2020, the organization



will celebrate two milestones: its 25th anniversary and its application for accreditation as a land trust with our national accrediting body.

**Project** Grassroots Gardens became a land trust in 2017 to permanently protect as many of its long-established gardens as possible. Even though the vast majority of its properties are vacant lots leased through city government and cared for by the community, the local municipalities provide very little financial support, if any at all, to the maintenance of these community gardens. To continue to grow and support long-term sustainability, Grassroots Gardens must find a better model for financing our collective work than continuous grant writing. The organization is very interested in learning about how other communities (e.g., the city of Chicago, Marin County, California) have implemented Open Space Impact Fees (OSIFs) to support their green programming. In communities where OSIFs has been implemented, dollars from private development have essentially been taxed and then that tax credit used to support green community programs like community gardens. The summer fellow will investigate OSIFs, how they came to be created and used in other communities across the country, especially for support of community gardens. The fellow will also examine how successful they are in sustaining green organizations like Grassroots Gardens and the advocacy process that had to be created to implement them within municipalities.

## Habitat for Humanity

1675 South Park Avenue Buffalo, NY 14220 | 716 204 0740 | [www.habitatbuffalo.org](http://www.habitatbuffalo.org)

**About** Habitat Buffalo is a local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Around the world, Habitat for Humanity has remained one of the most recognizable and admired non-profit organizations. Habitat is among the largest homebuilders in the United States, and is one of the largest single-family homebuilders in the City of Buffalo.

**Project** The fellow will help align Habitat Buffalo's advocacy research campaign with Habitat International's "Cost of Home" advocacy campaign. This "Cost of Home" campaign is a mobilization of local Habitat organizations over the next five years to improve home affordability by promoting policy and systems change in four key areas: supply and preservation of affordable homes, access to credit, land use, and communities of opportunity. The Habitat Buffalo advocacy research project will assess current affordable housing trends specifically related to homeownership, analyze the current real estate market and attitudes of government officials for affordable homeownership throughout Erie County. The fellow will then lead discussions with resident stakeholders, currently in partnership with Habitat, regarding renter and homeowner needs and to help set positive and realistic outcomes. The fellow will prepare an advocacy platform with specific and measurable goals from which Habitat will launch its advocacy campaign.

The fellow's final work product will be a series of advocacy steps in presentation form that Habitat can take to move affordable housing to the front of discussions with advocates and policymakers. This will include researching current and upcoming legislative opportunities and identifying key stakeholders to sponsor and support legislation. The Fellow will also develop metrics to track impact of nontraditional Habitat programs to include financial education classes for under prepared individuals, homeownership maintenance classes to minimize costly repairs

if not completed, and other Habitat International products that may be utilized in the local market to ensure equitable access to affordable housing opportunities.

## **Jericho Road Community Health Center**

184 Barton Street Buffalo, NY 14213 | 716 881 6191 | [www.jrchc.org](http://www.jrchc.org)

**About** Jericho Road Community Health Center provides a culturally sensitive medical home, especially for refugee and low-income community members, facilitating wellness and self-sufficiency by addressing health, education, economic and spiritual barriers. The English as a Second Language (ESL) Initiative was started in Spring 2010 with the goal of addressing one of the most commonly self-identified needs among refugee adults in Buffalo; learning English. The goal of the ESL Initiative is that as students improve in their confidence, willingness, and ability to use English in everyday situations, they become empowered to live more fully as members of their new community.

**Project** The fellow's work will contribute to the ongoing work of Jericho Road's ESL Initiative. The goal of a fellowship with the organization is threefold:

1. The fellow will gather information about the barriers refugee adults in the community might face to learning English, gaining citizenship, and taking advantage of available rights and resources. S/he will do this by engaging in direct service to refugee adult learners, shadowing and assisting with teaching ESL and citizenship classes 3-4 mornings a week.
2. The fellow will design and implement several workshops related to the self-identified needs and barriers faced by individuals in the ESL classes. Previous fellows have implemented workshops on topics such as voting and workers' rights. Other possible workshop topics include health, housing, banking, nutrition or safety.
3. The fellow will create instructional materials such as videos and visual aids for teaching some of the citizenship vocabulary and concepts the learners in our classes find most challenging and publish them in a format that can be made accessible to a wider audience of individuals preparing for the naturalization exam.

## **Massachusetts Avenue Project**

387 Massachusetts Avenue Buffalo, NY 14213 | 716 882 5327 x2 | [www.mass-ave.org](http://www.mass-ave.org)

**About** The mission of Massachusetts Avenue Project is to nurture the growth of a diverse, accessible, and equitable local food system, promote economic opportunities, and empower youth through social change education.

**Project** The fellow's work will support the efforts of the Good Food Buffalo Coalition to bring the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) to Buffalo. GFPP is a national policy initiative that encourages public institutions like public school districts to adopt food procurement policies that support environmental sustainability and strong local economies including black- and minority-owned businesses and farms.

The fellow will research the processes locally for vendors (such as farmers) to submit bids to sell produce, etc. to public institutions such as the Buffalo Public Schools, county and city agencies.

The final work product will be a written report submitted to their supervisor at MAP and an oral presentation developed for Good Food Buffalo Coalition partners and other interested individuals. The work product could also include a series of letters to the editor submitted to local papers informing small business owners and farmers how they can land contracts with public institutions in the City of Buffalo and Erie County.

## **Partnership for the Public Good**

617 Main Street, Suite 300 Buffalo, NY 14203 | 716 852 4191 | [www.ppgbuffalo.org](http://www.ppgbuffalo.org)

**About** The Partnership for the Public Good is working to build a more just, sustainable and culturally vibrant Greater Buffalo through action-oriented research, policy development and citizen engagement. With over 290 affiliated partners, PPG develops an annual Community Agenda of policy planks, hosts a weekly radio show, and produces publications and other resources to give the nonprofit community and citizens a stronger voice in public policy.

**Project 1** Partnership for the Public Good is supporting four community-led anti-displacement solutions: increasing affordable housing, reducing evictions and foreclosure, improving housing conditions, and reforming property tax. To advance healthy and affordable housing for Buffalo residents, the fellow will research several policy recommendations identified by PPG and our partners.

First, the fellow will research community benefits agreements to aid community groups in negotiating commitments with for-profit developers. Second, the fellow will investigate the “clean hands” eviction law enacted in Cleveland - requiring that before a landlord makes use of Housing Court to evict a tenant, they must have corrected any outstanding housing code violations. Third, the fellow will research emergency rent assistance grants for low-income tenants. In our study of evictions in Buffalo, PPG found that most tenants are evicted due to nonpayment of rent that is often tied to unexpected emergency expenses (medical crisis or sudden job loss). The fellow’s products will include research briefs on the topics above as well as social media campaigns on newly passed tenant rights and landlord guidelines in New York State.

**Project 2** Each fall, PPG invites its partners to submit proposals for its Community Agenda. Partners meet, collaborate, and consider ways to change local or state policies to advance equality, sustainability, and cultural vibrancy in the Buffalo Niagara region. The partners take a vote, and the top ten proposals become the focus of PPG's work for the coming year. PPG has run the agenda process for ten years and has a list of nearly 30 policy wins – from complete streets legislation to community policing commitments to restoring physical education to Buffalo Public Schools – that were among our advocacy priorities. This is a movement history project to more fully document the stories of the community-led advocacy that won these policy changes.

The fellow will interview PPG staff (current and former), community group partners and resident advocates, local legislators and their staff, and others to document how policy change happened in practice, step by step. The fellow will explore the role of action research, public

policy training and legislative advocacy, coordinated collective action, and the arts in helping to change local policies. Their products will include stories of community agenda wins, presented with photos and videos of community leaders, to be published by PPG and featured on our website and social media.

## **PUSH Buffalo**

429 Plymouth Ave, Buffalo, NY 14213 | 716 882 2672 | [www.pushbuffalo.org](http://www.pushbuffalo.org)

**About** People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH Buffalo), first founded in 2005, is a membership-based community organization dedicated to affordable housing, equitable jobs and ecological sustainability for the West Side of Buffalo

**Project** Although the City of Buffalo has experienced a resurgence, it has inadequate high-quality housing that is affordable to a significant portion of its population. Through this opportunity, the fellow will learn not only the how-to's of project management, but also about the affordable housing and community development field. Much of the fellow's time will be dedicated to the pre-development work of a new multi-site project combining infill and rehab housing that PUSH aims to break ground on in 2019 on Buffalo's West Side. The project will be applying for Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) and other funding sources.

The fellow will support a team to complete the necessary materials to ensure that community voices are included in the planning process and that all environmental assessments, zoning permissions and financial incentives are secured.

The fellow will specifically complete a community needs assessment for the project. This will be a combination of qualitative and quantitative analysis. S/he will interview residents of the targeted neighborhood and also utilize census, locally available data sources and existing planning documents to complete the market analysis for the needs assessment. Experience with data analysis, GIS, or housing finance helpful and not required.

## **Say Yes to Education Buffalo**

712 Main Street Buffalo, NY 14202 | 716 247 5310 | [www.sayyesbuffalo.org](http://www.sayyesbuffalo.org)

**About** Say Yes Buffalo is a landmark partnership that aims to provide a powerful engine for long-term economic development through radically improving the life course of public school students in the City of Buffalo. To do this, Say Yes Buffalo partnership combines a comprehensive K-12 support system with the incentive of locally funded postsecondary tuition scholarships to remove the barriers (financial, academic, social and health) to college access and success for youth in the City of Buffalo.

**Project** The Say Yes Buffalo Internship and Career Pathways Program is a workforce development initiative that connects Say Yes scholars – current college students who are graduates of Buffalo Public and Charter Schools – with local employers through trainings, employer tours and site visits, job skills workshops and paid professional experiences. Say Yes staff has found that although there is an abundance of paid internships in the corporate sector, Say Yes Buffalo Scholars have not filled these positions. This has been because few students apply to these positions and those who do apply are often overlooked for interviews. The

organization has made some gains to alleviate this, but requires a more strategic approach to help its qualified students be able to take advantage of these opportunities. This will require work on both the student and employer sides to bridge the gap and can include various types of work, such as:

- In person interviewing of students and employers
- Research current practices in other communities
- Audit of current program practices to identify areas of opportunity
- Creation of final strategic plan

## Ujima Company

429 Plymouth Ave Suite #2 Buffalo, NY 14213 | 716 322 5178 | [www.ujimacoinc.org](http://www.ujimacoinc.org)

**About** Ujima Company Inc. is a multi-ethnic and multicultural professional theatre whose primary purpose is the preservation, perpetuation and performance of African American theatre by providing working opportunities for established artists and training experience for aspiring artists. The core work of the organization has four focus areas:

- producing and performing plays, particularly those that are created to reflect the lives of African Americans and that provide employment opportunities for member and local artists.
- presenting the work of new artists and performing arts groups;
- providing young people with workshops and experiential training in theatre;
- serving as a resource to persons, community agencies, and institutions serving non-violence, cultural diversity, at-risk youth and positive values necessary for the development of the community.

**Project** Frontline Arts Buffalo (FAB) coalition was created in 2018 to advocate for and with arts/cultural institutions who operate in frontline communities across the city. Frontline communities are those that experience “first and worst” the consequences of climate change. These are communities of color and low-income, whose neighborhoods often lack basic infrastructure to support them and who will be increasingly vulnerable as our climate deteriorates. FAB seeks to call attention to the work being done by these organizations and the needs required to transition from conditions of precariousness to viability. This includes highlighting funding disparities that have crippled and stunted organizations.

The fellow will conduct analysis of research accrued over the last year, support video production, formulate a media/PR strategy for the coalition in regards to a series of video screenings, and perform data gathering on the history of private and public funding of the arts institutions in the city as a form of power mapping.

The final work product will come in the form of a PR/media strategy which may include visuals such as posters, social media renderings, and possibly even a logo. The final work product may also include a research study which can be presented as a report and/or presentation (Powerpoint, Prezi, etc.) to be used in conjunction with other materials FAB currently has. Work on the video production, documentation, and publishing that the fellow will support will ultimately result in a final video product or series of videos that will be shown to the public.

## WNY Area Labor Federation

2495 Main Street, Suite 440 Buffalo, NY 14214 | 716 852 0375 | [www.wnyalf.org](http://www.wnyalf.org)

**About** Established in June of 2001, the Federation consists of the 5 Western New York Central Labor Councils, governed by 7 Officers, 25 Board Members from affiliated Local Unions. Their mission is to improve the lives of and increase the power for working families, bring fairness and dignity to the workplace and secure social equity. The total representation of union members in these 5 councils are over 130,000 members from all walks of life.

**Project** The Labor Councils that comprise the WNYALF have always been involved in their communities but seldom recognized for what they do as community minded entities. Similarly, labor unions have been a major part of the community structure but never asked for recognition they so richly deserve. It is the goal of the WNYALF to work hard at gaining not only the respect of the community but to be recognized for the good deeds that they do. The summer fellow will help organize and curate the archives of the ALF to create an exhibition at the end of the summer displaying the history of organized labor and the ALF in WNY. This is an ideal project for a student interested in labor history.

The WNYALF coordinates year-round programs of political education, Get-Out-The-Vote campaigns, and non-partisan registration for union members. The fellow will work on these initiatives working towards the 2018 elections. The fellow will participate in meetings of local labor councils and the WNYALF's executive council, labor coalitions, work closely with WNYALF affiliates, and gain exposure to a wide range of community and economic development issues and actors.

## WNY Council on Occupational Safety and Health

2495 Main Street, Suite 438 Buffalo, NY 14214 | 716 833 5416 | [www.wnycosh.org](http://www.wnycosh.org)

**About** The WNY Council on Occupational Safety and Health (WNYCOSH) is a worker safety and health advocacy and training organization. Over the past 40 years, WNYCOSH has built a membership base of labor union locals, health & safety activists, as well as many public health and legal professionals and individuals interested in occupational safety and health issues. WNYCOSH has empowered hundreds of thousands of workers including young workers, refugee and immigrant workers, low-wage workers and workers in high hazard industries through direct training to identify, evaluate and control hazards in the workplace.

**Project** The Western New York Worker Center supports workers, especially low-wage workers—immigrant, refugee, temp workers, and native-born—to learn about their rights and organize fellow workers to improve workplace conditions. The High Road fellow would be involved with outreach to communities in the Buffalo area, including refugee and immigrant communities, our Workers' Compensation and Workers' Rights Training to various community groups, non-profits and businesses, as well as helping to expand our language access. The fellow will build upon and expand the research done by a previous fellow on temp workers in the Buffalo area to include the rest of the "gig economy" and how worker health and safety, as well as general labor practices, are impacted specifically in our area. One area of focus may be the use of temp workers within the health care industry. The fellow will assist with calls to our 14



language worker hotline and with Worker Center cases that may arise. The fellow would also participate in community and location meetings for groups that WNYCOSH is involved in.

## WNY Law Center

37 Franklin Street, 2nd floor Buffalo, NY 14202 | 716 855 0203 | [www.wnyc.net](http://www.wnyc.net)

**About** The WNY Law Center is a nonprofit legal services organization of legal professionals representing low-income people in a full range of civil matters. They engage in direct representation of homeowners facing foreclosure as well as in fair lending advocacy and education.

**Project** The Law Center helps homeowners who are in danger of losing their home due to tax foreclosure. Attorneys and paralegals in this unit assist clients with understanding their options, responding to legal documents and provide representation in court. The Center also does advocates for State and local policy reform to better serve the needs of the community.

The fellow will review and assess the Law Center's previous tax foreclosure cases to see if homeowners were successful in paying their payment plans or if they re-defaulted. The fellow will help create questions to ask homeowners, survey former clients, and research the tax status of former clients as well. The Law Center seeks to use this information to advocate for changes to the County and City Tax auctions to help payment plans be more successful.

## WNY Library Resources Council

4950 Genesee Street, Suite 170, Buffalo, NY 14225 | 716 633 0705 x114 | [www.wnyc.org](http://www.wnyc.org)

**About** WNYLRC is a member-driven organization that helps libraries build connections with each other, library users, and the larger community. WNYLRC principles include community and collaboration, innovation, education, connecting, and advocacy.

**Project** The goal of this project is to develop and implement a strategy for training librarians about open civic data that is taking place in the immediate context of the information needs in the communities where they work. Library staff themselves require more training and guidance in how to locate, apply and use open civic data to meet the specific needs of their patrons.

The fellow will be responsible for incorporating relevant elements of the Civic Switchboard Guide, the National Digital Inclusion Coalition Guide, Public Advocacy and Engagement tools from the Right Question Institute and, Open Civic Data training modules from the Queens Public Library, for creating a simple model of training librarians on open civic data in a 2-step process: the first session takes place at the WNYLRC location and the second session will take place at a local library, working with one or more community organizations on a specific topic of interest.

The work on this project will strengthen the capacity of libraries and librarians as data intermediaries in local communities, assisting individuals and communities in the area who have problems, issues and challenges that can be addressed using open civic data. The project will strengthen the ties between local libraries and community organizations and residents, seeking solutions to a common issue or challenge.

## WNY Women's Foundation

742 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, NY 14209 | 716 855 0203 | [www.wnywomensfoundation.org](http://www.wnywomensfoundation.org)

**About** In 1999, the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County and the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo recognized that there was not enough funding or focus on the unique needs of women and girls in our region. Together with a group of diverse women, they created the WNY Women's Fund. They defined a shared vision by establishing a modest endowment fund to support programs specifically geared towards women and girls. An expansive group of leaders and supporters worked tirelessly to grow the WNY Women's Fund into a self-sustaining, independent organization. Nearly two decades later the WNY Women's Foundation is a separate 501(c)3, non-profit organization continually expanding efforts to make Western New York a great place for women and girls to live, work, and grow.

**Project** This project seeks to educate and empower voters to advance a more inclusive community. The final product will be voter registration tools to assist people in registering and educate them on the importance of voting in the 2020 General Election. The fellow will create a guide that educates voters about issues important to and for women and issues that impact them.

The fellow will:

- Produce a white paper to "make the case" for anti-poverty and economic development money to support early childhood programs – specifically child care.
- Assist in planning for an education/awareness campaign/event for legislators.
- Develop a "Voter Education Guide", building off the guide the Foundation produced in 2016 and 2018.
- Identify key stakeholders and assist in developing social media campaign to promote voter registration and get out the vote, especially to disenfranchised communities.
- Conduct interviews and research articles to inform potential 2021 advocacy focuses.

## Westminster Economic Development Initiative

436 Grant Street Buffalo, NY 14213 | 716 393 4088 | [www.wedibuffalo.org](http://www.wedibuffalo.org)

**About** WEDI is a nonprofit 501(c)3 with the mission of empowering low income business owners and bettering the quality of life on the West Side. Our belief is that strong communities of entrepreneurs can create strong neighborhoods.

**Project** WEDI has recently joined the NYS Community Equity Agenda, a group focused on policies and actions that transform fundamentally unjust social, political, and economic systems. The focus is on involving people and communities traditionally left out of or harmed by these systems in the decision making process. WEDI's interest is to reform lending and protect individuals and at risk communities from predatory lending.

The fellow will research current ecosystems around lending, with a strong focus on predatory lending and payday loans, coupled with a finished product to ensure residents are aware of other opportunities.

The fellow will complete:

- A study of predatory lenders, predatory lending systems, and structural problems in current systems that perpetuate inequity

- Informational materials for business owners who may not know about CDFI lending or that CDFI's like WEDI are established to bank people who may not otherwise have access to credit