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PEACE BRIDGE
ALLENTOWN
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Application Deadline: February 18, 2021

Program Basics

Summer Fellows work through June and July, earning a living wage for 300 hours. 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. Deliberations are still in the process as to whether the Fellowship will occur in-person or remotely. If in-person, group housing arrangements are facilitated for those interested. A mandatory one credit pre-course will take place the second half of Spring 2021 to prepare students for their fieldwork.

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.

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 300 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.

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.

Arts Services Inc.

2495 Main Street, #422 Buffalo NY 14214 | www.asiwny.org

About: Arts Services 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:

- Research how many individuals and families should be eligible Arts Access and compare with how many are utilizing the program;
- Analyze the program's impact and see which communities or populations may be missing (and why);
- Survey participants (pass holders) and put together a report on the impact of the program – with special focus on COVID related barriers and challenges (on pass holders, participating organizations, sign-up locations, and the community at large);
- Collect testimonials from pass holders - this may include going to a community center/public location to meet participants and record video and/or audio testimonials;
- Design/Create a marketing campaign to raise awareness about the program and its impact in the community;
- Find new arts and cultural organizations to partner with; and
- Conduct 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 | www.buffaloartstechcenter.org

About: BCAT's Youth Arts & Technology Program engages high school youth in the arts and technology to keep them motivated, resilient and confident in school through graduation with a plan for their future. BCAT's tuition-free instruction builds skills for future success including classes taught in music production/engineering, 3D printing, mobile app development, photography/videography, and public art. Youth develop positive identity and creativity, and gain consistent access to academic support, mentoring, and college/career guidance motivating them to stay in school, graduate, and have confidence in their plans for a productive future.

Project: A theme in BCAT's after-school Youth Arts and Technology program has emerged that youth attend because BCAT is in/near their neighborhood or their friend(s) attend the program. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, BCAT wants to broaden recruiting efforts to attract high school students from all over the City of Buffalo. The goals for the project, and for the High Road Fellow, will be exploring barriers to access that are currently preventing youth from other

parts of Buffalo to attend BCAT. The Fellow will work collaboratively with the Youth Arts and Technology team and the Development team to determine existing road-blocks to access and help to identify solutions that fit within the constraints of our budget and timeline for recruiting.

They will additionally produce a document outlining current barriers for youth to access our Youth Arts and Technology program and make recommendations, based on the data collected, to overcome these barriers that will be the basis of our recruiting plan in 2021-2022. It is anticipated that the Fellow will have an opportunity to learn and work with mapping, Census data and other demographic resources/tools, understand how to plan and conduct focus groups, and use quantitative and qualitative data to make recommendations on the outlined problem.

Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council

2640 N. Forest Ave. Getzville, NY 14068 | www.buffalojewishfederation.org

About: Inspired by core Jewish values, the Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) seeks to sustain a more civil and caring community in Western New York and around the world. The Council builds meaningful and collaborative relationships with other faith, ethnic, and cultural communities toward the goal of developing a more civil society. The JCRC is a visible voice during times of crisis and on vital social issues, including voter engagement, rise of hate and antisemitism, criminal justice reform and will educate and advocate on all those topics, seeking consensus.

Project: Data from the FBI, Department of Justice and Anti-Defamation League clearly demonstrate that Hate, Racism and Antisemitism are on the rise. WNY is not immune and this issue has never been locally studied. This project aims to assess the incidents, create an inventory of organizations and activities combatting hate and assess their impact on WNY. This project will shed knowledge and awareness on strategies to advocate and mobilize our community against further hate in our region. It will also make recommendations on how organizations/coalitions can continue this critical work.

The four parts of the project include:

- Research incident rate of hate, racism and antisemitism in WNY using mapping, focus group, databases, and law enforcement data.
- Create an environmental scan/mapping of which organizations aim to combat hate and foster tolerance and civil discourse and the activities they produce.
- Assess the impact of those activities on the rate of hate incidence rate, impact on inter-organizational collaboration including faith and racial justice groups and impact on educational (high school and college) outcomes.
- Recommendations of next steps guided by the research.

Buffalo Niagara Community Reinvestment Coalition

37 Franklin Street, 2nd floor Buffalo, NY 14202 | www.bncrc.org

About: Our mission at the BNCRC is to eliminate inequitable banking practices and the enduring impact of redlining on the people of Western New York. The BNCRC advocates for and monitors existing CBAs to ensure our community receives the dedication and commitment it deserves. Working with local institutions, they advocate for fairer policies, better products and services, and to support the community in order to make banking and financial success an achievable reality.

Project: The Fellow will be conducting research on both the national and international impact of public banking on communities. They will also, in collaboration with their supervisor, create and implement a survey to solicit community desires related to community reinvestment. The Fellow will also take into account the city budget and the potential impact of those municipal deposits. Most of the project will be engaged in research and interviews with our local stakeholders in addition to statewide coalitions who have been working to make public banking a reality. This project will allow for the Coalition to further work towards making the case for Buffalo to become a municipality that participates in public banking. This will also help when meeting with state elected officials as to why NYS needs public banking and the relationship to community reinvestment.

Buffalo Urban League

15 Genesee Street Buffalo, NY 14203 | www.buffalourbanleague.org

About: The Buffalo Urban League's Mission is to empower African Americans, other minorities and disadvantaged individuals to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights. The renaissance of the Buffalo Niagara Region is continuing to grow and beginning to reach people in parts our communities who face the greatest challenges. The Buffalo Urban League continues to move forward, connecting this growth to some of the most challenged communities in the Buffalo-Niagara region.

Project: The Fellow would conduct research supporting our (1) Housing Assistance and (2) Foster Care and Adoption programs. Both programs are essential to the community and are offered by other local agencies. The projects goals would be to research industry best practices and trends in order to perform comparative analysis of the Buffalo Urban league performance against the industry and local agencies.

Project outcomes should identify potential process improvements and areas of focus that would create greater alignment with governmental and community needs/objectives, enhance program awareness/outreach, and strengthen community engagement. Collaborative opportunities should be considered where greater outcomes for the community are likely. The final work product would be a research based paper and presentation to the Buffalo Urban League's Executive Leadership Team, Board Members, and other key stakeholders.

Center for Elder Law and Justice

438 Main Street Suite 1200 Buffalo, NY 14202 | www.elderjusticeny.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: Our Kinship Care Family Unit works with clients who are non-parent caregivers in Erie and Niagara county, providing free legal assistance to keep children out of the foster care system. Our attorneys have seen that there is an overwhelming need to help low-income parents and caregivers self-advocate for expungement of indicated CPS reports. According to the American Bar Association, studies have shown a correlation between reports of child harm and low socio-economic status. However, "poverty itself is often mistaken for neglect, resulting in increased rates of child-maltreatment reports. The inability to feed, clothe, or house a child should not be mistaken for neglect" (American Bar).

In this project, the High Road Fellow will develop self-advocacy materials such as videos, presentations, and brochures to share with the community. These resources will assist people seeking to expunge indicated CPS reports, which may be years or even decades old. These reports can prevent individuals from securing job opportunities, or improving on other areas that would elevate their economic status.

Center for Employment Opportunities

170 Franklin Street, Suite 701 Buffalo, NY 14202 | 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 Buffalo seeks to deepen work in the community, increase the supportive services for our participants, and improve access to employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals currently not reached by partnering with a local organization assisting individuals and families in Buffalo. These supports include on-site childcare, benefits access, healthcare supports, and financial literacy and empowerment. Partnering with community organizations provides another level of re-entry resources for CEO's participants to be part of their communities in positive and significant ways.

To help provide immediate, effective, and comprehensive employment services to individuals with criminal convictions who have recently returned home from incarceration, the Fellow will be responsible for partnership cultivation and executing a Community Service Day event for CEO staff, participants and partnering organization involving:

- Meeting with Site Director and CEO leadership to assess community partnership and supportive services

- Attend regional anti-poverty, workforce, and reentry coalition meetings and other events within the community to explore possible opportunities for collaboration and support
- Develop a resource bank of regional programs/vendors that provide supportive services to participants outside of CEO's scope of work; establish new community partnerships to meet the needs of CEO clients
- Establish communication with potential partnering agencies and propose Community Service Day events for both organizations.

Citizens for Regional Transit

617 Main Street Suite #201, Buffalo, NY 14203 | www.citizenstransit.org

About: The purpose of CRT is to build an understanding of the benefits of transit by facilitating public participation through educational events, information sharing and other outreach efforts. Citizens for Regional Transit operates on a grass-roots level. Citizens for Regional Transit advocates equitable transit including improved and expanded bus and rail transit through citizen involvement and education.

Project: The High Road Fellow would research and build a solid and convincing case for extending the existing Metro Rail into Buffalo's historically under-served and disproportionately impacted East Side in tandem with (or immediately after) the proposed Amherst extension. In broadest terms, the goal is to evaluate fair and redressive inclusion of communities of color in major government investments directed at WNY's transportation infrastructure, and to leverage this investment as a catalyst for private community and economic development along its length.

The Fellow would produce a white paper demonstrating the potential for privately funded Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (eTOD) on the East Side-Airport corridor's many brownfields and for adaptive reuse of its historic structures for affordable housing, community services, and minority-owned businesses. The research would explore whether ridership could include not only those residing near the transit line, but from the entire region, importantly providing a viable, clean alternative to today's daily 70,000-car pollution generating cavalcade now using the Kensington Expressway. The report would give helpful statistics to social justice advocates, community groups, and elected officials.

Colored Girls Bike Too

www.facebook.com/groups/coloredgirlsbiketoo

About: Colored Girls Bike Too (CGBT) is a radical cycling organization founded in 2017. CGBT encourages Black Women & Black Gender nonconforming (GNC) people to use bike commuting as Alternative/Affordable Transport, a tool of Empowerment, Activism, Visibility, Physical & Mental Health. The organization focuses on Black women (cisgender and transgender) and GNC people because we all face similar issues regarding patriarchy and misogynoir.

Project: CGBT's goals are to support folks on their bike liberation journey, as they commute to essential places and as they actively embark on their mental and physical wellness journey, both figuratively and literally. They work towards our goals by providing free bikes and bike equipment, bike workshops, social media learning, bike courier service, bike mentorship, and

support, advocating for mobility justice, bike ride events, and social meetups. Since CGBT is still a developing organization, many visionary projects have not yet been launched. The most active project that has been launched is the 'CGBT Bike Plug Program', which connects Black Women and Black GNC people to bikes, bike equipment, and mentorship for free.

The Fellow will be tasked with supporting the foundational work of the organization including:

- Establishing CGBT as a 501c3
- Creating programming and an organizational structure for CGBT
- Sustaining and improving the CGBT Bike Plug program
- Launching a new program called 'Transitional Transit'
- Sustaining and strengthening CGBT social media platforms

Communications Workers of America District 1

821 Elk Street, Suite B, Buffalo, NY 14210 | www.district1.cwa-union.org

About: CWA District 1 represents 145,000 workers in 200 CWA local unions in New York, New Jersey, New England, and eastern Canada. CWA members work in telecommunications, health care, higher education, manufacturing, broadcast and cable television, commercial printing and newspapers, state, local, and country government.

District 1 members have participated in successful large-scale strikes at Bell Atlantic, Southern New England Telephone, and Verizon, including the latest strike involving 40,000 Verizon and Verizon Wireless workers. The unity and determination of CWA members resulted in big gains to raise up working families, improve our communities and advance the interests of America's working people.

Project: The Fellow will be able to engage with local unions in collective bargaining at two large Health Care Systems, Catholic Health and Faxton/St Lukes in Utica, as well as participate in grievance handling and arbitration.

Community Action Organization

464 Dodge St. Buffalo, NY 14208 | www.caowny.org

About: To promote opportunities for low-income individuals, families and communities to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency through advocacy, partnerships, access to services and low-to-moderate income housing development.

Project: The King Urban Life Center (KULC) Housing Improvement Plan aims to 1) further understand the existing housing- and vacant land-related challenges faced by vulnerable residents on the City of Buffalo's East Side 2) develop resident-driven strategies to resolves these challenges, and 3) to act as a resident-informed neighborhood investment plan for the improvement of housing stock in the area.

The High Road Fellow will complete a series of resident engagement strategies to gather rich, qualitative data on the experience of residents in the KULC area. Building on the quantitative housing and vacant lot data previously gathered, the High Road Fellow will develop resident engagement tools to obtain narrative data of people's experience of housing challenges and

issues relating to vacant land in their neighborhood. These engagement strategies will also aim to generate resident feedback on potential solutions for these challenges as well; for instance, types of housing repairs, innovations in housing repair programs, perspectives on vacant lot reuse and infill development, etc. Engagement strategies may include: neighborhood canvassing (door knocking), a text/online survey, editable online map, and/or through in-person and virtual focus groups—depending on the changing COVID-19 pandemic. Engagement strategies will focus on targeting to a diverse range of residents to better encompass all voices in the target area. The final work product of the High Road Fellow will be a Community Input Report that synthesizes the qualitative and quantitative data gathered from residents. This data will then be folded into the final KULC Housing Improvement Plan that will serve as an implementation guide for the CAO and the KULC going forward.

Cooperation Buffalo

429 Plymouth Avenue Suite 1 Buffalo, NY 14213 | 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: Cooperative economics in Buffalo is rooted in Black leadership seeking to pool resources for equitable community well-being and betterment. Emphasizing this history is imperative to the usage and maintenance of the cooperative movement. The Fellow will continue Cooperation's Buffalo efforts to advance this story through conducting oral history interviews of Black leaders involved in the Buffalo cooperative movement. This will be the basis for a larger database of resources which the Fellow will preliminarily explore how to build out.

In addition, the Fellow will conduct an analysis of local municipal public policy options to support the growth and sustainability of worker cooperatives, especially in communities of color and for poor and working class people. Looking at successful and unsuccessful examples of local municipal efforts in other cities and regions, the Fellow will summarize strategies that could be effective for future advocacy in Buffalo's political context.

FeedMore WNY

100 James E Casey Dr., Buffalo, NY 14206| www.feedmorewny.org

About: FeedMore WNY's mission is to offer dignity, hope and a brighter future by providing nutritious food, friendship and skills training to its Western New York neighbors in need.

Project: In Q1 of 2021, FeedMore WNY will be launching a Mobile Market service, which will be taking fresh, perishable produce into underserved neighborhoods and food deserts. The aim of this program will be to increase access to fresh produce and allow those with transportation barriers to use their SNAP, WIC, and other resources to access fresh produce.

A High Road Fellow would assist in acquiring data to better understand the individuals using this program. By understanding the needs of the individuals, the barriers they face, and the reasons they use this program, FeedMore can adapt the mobile market program to be more effective.

The data can also be used to work with other community partners to address the concerns and needs of the neighborhoods.

The final work product will consist of a summarization report of data collected by interviews and surveys of participants of the Mobile Market Program. Included in this report will also be an analysis of the costs, purchases, and revenues of the program to determine the sustainability and impact of the program on underserved neighborhoods and food deserts. It is anticipated the report will provide insights into other underserved communities and highlight opportunities to expand this program in the future.

Field and Fork Network

487 Main St. Suite 200 Buffalo, NY 14203| www.fieldandforknetwork.com

About: Field & Fork Network (FFN) is a food and farming organization that connects communities to innovative solutions that foster a sustainable food system.

FFN is building a thriving regional food system. Our focus is on these economic development, food access, youth development and healthy neighborhoods. Since 2009, we've been creating more opportunities for local agriculture, providing greater access to food, building healthier neighborhoods and educating the next generation of food advocates.

Project: Field & Fork Network has been a leader in the development and implementation of the Niagara Falls Local Food Action Plan; a plan focused on strengthening the local and regional food system in an effective, proactive, and meaningful way by affecting policy and implementing programs that address food insecurity in the City of Niagara Falls, NY. The Plan includes 41 specific action items organized in a four-part framework that includes: Agriculture, Economic Development, Education and Healthy Neighborhoods.

The Fellow would work on the following actions taken directly from the Niagara Falls Local Food Action Plan:

- A searchable, comprehensive, and user-friendly database that lists lots that would be ideal for the development of community gardens
- Policy proposals developed for and submitted to appropriate policymakers
- A collection of research and best practices related to a Healthy Corner Store Initiative

Habitat for Humanity

1675 South Park Avenue Buffalo, NY 14220 | 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 research the impact that Covid-19 has had on the local housing market (rental and homeownership), citing data and statistics, as well as capturing real narratives from people impacted. This project will start with the state of housing access prior to Covid-19. From there they will track the rent and mortgage moratorium to the present day – whatever that may

look like when the Fellow starts. The goals are to have a comprehensive, yet accessible, overview of housing accessibility in a (hopefully) post Covid-19 world. Ultimately, this information will be used to create a plan to address those issues.

Partnership for the Public Good

617 Main Street, Suite 300 Buffalo, NY 14203 | 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: Partnership for the Public Good strives to provide community advocates with knowledge to advance their campaigns and foster public participation in government and policy work. One governmental process that is traditionally opaque to the public is budgeting. Erie County's budget encompasses many activities that are critical to PPG's partners including jails, housing, childcare, and others. For example, PPG's initial county budget research shows that for every $1 spent on mental health, Erie County spent $13.60 on its jails in 2019.

Complimenting a sister project that will be undertaken on the City of Buffalo budget, the Fellow's summer project will be gaining a deep understanding of the Erie County budget process and produce resources to extend that understanding to partners. Generated resources will include a brief report, a PowerPoint presentation, and a timeline graphic to be featured as dedicated advocacy tools on PPG's website.

Peaceprints of WNY

660 Smith Street Buffalo, NY 14210 | www.peaceprintswny.org

About: As a nationally recognized leader in reentry services for individuals involved in the criminal justice system, Peaceprints of WNY will leverage its expertise, passion for social justice, and innovative programming to empower individuals and advocate for equitable opportunities. Our mission is to strengthen communities by rebuilding lives.

Project: Rates of homelessness among formerly incarcerated individuals is up to 13 times greater than for the general public. A leading cause is the limited availability of affordable housing options, and the barriers to housing access. The long-term goals of this project are (1) to advocate for governmental policies and screening guidelines regarding housing people with conviction histories, (2) to increase the number of private landlords and housing opportunities in Buffalo willing to rent to individuals with a criminal record, together decreasing rates of homelessness among reentering individuals.

To work towards these goals in the short-term, the Fellow will be asked to compile an inventory of local landlords, housing providers, and nursing homes/supported care facilities in Buffalo who might be future allies in this pursuit or are open to receiving more information. Further, they will be expected to conduct interviews with the decision makers in the inventory to document current

rental policy surrounding the screening and application process to formerly incarcerated people and to understand the perceived fears and barriers to renting to returning people.

Preservation Buffalo Niagara

617 Main Street Suite 201 Buffalo NY 14203 | www.preservationbuffaloniagara.org

About: Preservation Buffalo Niagara is the region's only full-service, professionally staffed preservation organization, empowering Western New York communities to champion historic preservation as a means of creating a more culturally rich, vibrant, affordable, and sustainable community. PBN identifies, protects, and promotes our unique architecture and historic legacy, and connects people to the places they love in Western New York.

Project: The goal of this project is to assist PBN in creating the East Side History Initiative. This program aims to make the historic information about Buffalo's East Side, and the history and experience of Black Buffalonians more accessible to the community, while also using that platform to collect more research about the people, places, and events that shaped this historic part of Buffalo. The specific deliverables will be to:

- Create of an interactive map, documenting East Side historic sites,
- Develop of a community outreach and oral history program, and to
- Conduct historic research as needed to support the project.

By providing an accurate and equitable documentation of the evolution of the East Side, preservationists and community leaders will have a baseline historic narrative and timeline to correctly zero in on particular neighborhoods and do street level surveys. This should lead to creating more historic districts and protecting a broader range of history with relevance to more communities.

PUSH Buffalo

429 Plymouth Ave, Buffalo, NY 14213 | 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 In January 2020, PUSH Buffalo launched a West Side Community Energy Roadmap project to establish a shared baseline understanding of conditions on the West Side that might hinder or contribute to the pursuit of a Just Transition, and the ability of local residents to leverage New York State's nation-leading climate law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, as a tool in that pursuit. PUSH seeks to further develop the Roadmap to include in-depth accounts from residents about their relationships with the current energy system, the climate/environment, and neighborhood-level and regional economies. The Cornell High Road Fellow's primary responsibility would be documenting residents' accounts through a 6-week storytelling campaign. The Fellow would also commit to a deep study of the CLCPA and engage in conversations with other PUSH staff to learn more about the organization's theory and practice of change. This will provide vital context for the Fellow to carry into conversations with residents.

The Fellow's final work product will include audio/video recordings of residents' stories, transcriptions of all/some of those accounts, and a written report of the stories that were shared to draw out salient themes. In addition, the Fellow will make a presentation about the findings to the Erie County Climate Change Task Force.

Say Yes to Education Buffalo

712 Main Street Buffalo, NY 14202 | 716 247 5310 | 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. The program continuously strives to provide quality internship experiences for Say Yes Scholars in college. This often includes providing guidance to employers who may not have an established internship program or are looking to diversify their internship staff in a safe and inclusive manner. This project would involve creating a guide for employers to use to help develop or enhance their internship programs in a way that best serves students. Activities include:

- Research on other successful and unsuccessful internships
- Research on inclusive hiring practices
- Potential engagement with employers and students to include their respective voices

The final product will be a toolkit that is shared with partner employers to help develop or enhance their internship program. It will be a guide that is shared mostly digitally, but also possibly in print.

The Foundry

298 Northampton St, Buffalo, NY 14208 | www.thefoundrybuffalo.org

About The Foundry uses an inclusive approach to advancing individuals through hands-on learning, entrepreneurship, and exposure to possibilities. The Foundry does this by providing space, tools and technical assistance to women, people of color and product-focused businesses as they grow and introducing young adults to career paths, hands-on skill building and computer-assisted design tools. Additionally, they facilitate youth opportunities through our afterschool STEAM sessions, workforce development training, entrepreneurship classes and part-time employment.

Project The Foundry aims to develop a workforce development program that actually works for women and people of color, especially as we consider the rapidly changing landscape of work due to Covid-19 and technological advances. They are currently co-designing a workforce

development program with input from past participants to guide future iterations of the program and are looking for assistance on the research side to support findings.

The Fellow will work with the Education Director to:

- Conduct an assessment of other makerspaces nationally and workforce development locally with a lens for what structures have been particularly successful for engaging and retaining women and people of color.
- Research the effects of Covid-19 on the nature of work and how that may impact future iterations of makerspace workforce development programs (including automation of certain jobs, hybrid in-person and remote work, increasing emergence of gig work, e-commerce/entrepreneurship, consumer local purchasing initiatives).

WNY Law Center

37 Franklin Street, 2nd floor Buffalo, NY 14202 | www.wnylc.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 works with homeowners to negotiate payment plans with both the City and the County when they've become delinquent on their property taxes. High interest rates contribute to a large portion of delinquent bills and take equity from homeowners. By making changes to the interest rate charged on back taxes we can preserve equity for homeowners and make payment plans more manageable thus making home retention more likely.

The Law Center's project goal is to have a Fellow analyze data already acquired by the Law Center on interest charged on delinquent taxes and how it impacts equity and generational wealth in Erie County. The work should culminate in a report with recommendations that could be used to push for change around interest charged on back taxes as well as reforms to payment plans and ways taxes are paid.