ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

**Project:** Educational Justice Activism in Washington, D.C.: Digital Access and Technological Literacy

**Organization:** Smithsonian National Museum of American History (Washington, DC)

**Location:** Remote

**Stipend:** $60,000 per year, plus health insurance and professional development funding

**Start Date:** September 2021

**ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION**

The National Museum of American History empowers people to create a just and compassionate future by exploring, preserving, and sharing the complexity of our past. At the heart of the museum are the dedicated professionals who care for its audiences, national collections, resources, messages, buildings, and scholarship, all in service to the people of the United States. From our nearly 800,000-square-foot home on the National Mall and through our numerous online channels, the museum welcomes millions of people every year from across the country and around the world, free of charge. Learn more at [https://americanhistory.si.edu/](https://americanhistory.si.edu/)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The shift to distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted longstanding social and economic inequities. Digital access and technological literacy pose major challenges to educational equity, implicating the academic achievement of students, as well as their well-being. Washington, D.C. is home to a vibrant network of activists that raise money to provide school supplies, devices, and hotspots for local families in need; gather and disseminate information about educational resources; and raise awareness of the causes and consequences of educational inequity. The Leading Edge Fellow will conduct oral histories of individuals involved with educational justice initiatives that address digital access and technological literacy in DC-area schools. The Fellow will contribute to the Museum’s mission and advance social justice and equity by documenting the work of educational justice activists, providing future museum audiences an understanding of the challenges faced by students and families in gaining access to educational enrichment and the consequences of systemic racism in the United States. This is a full-time commitment for the fellowship year, including dedicated time for professional development activities.

**Responsibilities and tasks:**

- Assist museum curators in identifying interview subjects for oral histories
- Conduct and transcribe oral histories of individuals involved with educational justice initiatives in the greater Washington, D.C. region
- Research the roles of activists, parent-teacher organizations, non-profit educational justice organizations, and government agencies in digital access and technological literacy among K-12 students and stay apprised of the latest news about educational justice in the greater Washington, D.C. region
- Assist museum curators in identifying objects, such as computing and communication devices, assignments, posters, and public health materials, to help illustrate diverse American experiences and document the history of social justice initiatives
- Assist in developing these collecting recommendations, including preparing documentation describing relevant objects for a general audience

This position is only available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program. You may not contact the host institution to inquire about this position.
Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields here;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, including public speaking and meeting facilitation;
- Ability to develop texts for both general and specialist/scholarly audiences;
- Interest in public humanities and community outreach;
- Experience conducting interviews or oral histories.

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: 9pm EDT, May 6, 2021