ACLs Leading Edge Fellowship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project:</th>
<th>Amplifying Inclusion: Building a Public Media Impact Framework</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization:</td>
<td>PRX, Inc. (Boston, MA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Remote</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stipend:</td>
<td>$60,000 per year, plus health insurance and professional development funding</td>
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<td>Start Date:</td>
<td>September 2021</td>
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**ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION**

PRX’s mission is to lead changes that expand public media as a trusted source of knowledge, information, and inspiration for all. Strong public media is anchored in journalism, strengthened with diverse voices and amplified by innovative technology — but the industry is mired in longstanding systemic inequities and lags considerably when it comes to access, inclusivity and sustainability. This leaves large swaths of the public misrepresented and underserved in public media, perpetuating social inequalities. Such consequences of media inequity have become only more evident — and dangerous — in the era of accelerating dis- and misinformation, democratic decline and the COVID-19 pandemic. PRX believes social justice and equity is intrinsically tied to media, and chief among our mission is to cultivate a consequential portfolio that contributes to a socially just ecosystem — in media and society. Learn more at https://www.prx.org/

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Leading Edge Fellow will join PRX Productions, a BIPOC-led unit focused on high-quality audio production and storytelling, to develop an impact framework focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The Fellow will work directly with the Productions Executive Producer on assessing new projects coming into the portfolio, as well as prospecting with the Chief of Business Development and Content on yet unacquired work. The Fellow’s project will directly advance social justice and equity in media by helping to reform the very essence of public media gatekeeping, which has long rested in the hands of a privileged few. Over the first part of the year, the fellow will conduct a landscape review and qualitative analysis of PRX’s current portfolio. They will then put their research into action — leading the design and implementation of an impact framework (e.g. dashboard, scoring guide) to measure the value proposition and mission alignment of portfolio shows. The Fellow will have the opportunity to lead the work, but will be supported by Productions leadership, the Sr. Director for DEI, and others in the organization. This is a priority project as PRX seeks to better institutionalize social justice and equity in public media, and we see great value in partnering with a Fellow who has deep humanities expertise in this collaborative work. The Fellow's work will be instrumental to helping reform a public media landscape critically in need of foundational change that recenters access for misrepresented and underserved creators and listeners.

Working within Productions at PRX, the Fellow will also gain professional experience in podcasting, from audio software to storytelling to talent management. As podcasting is increasingly becoming an outreach mechanism for organizations across the spectrum, having tangible audio-first and communication skills is increasingly valuable. Similarly, the Fellow will be familiar with the workings of a corporate non-profit, including gaining insight into resource development and fundraising, training and education, technology development, news production, business development and strategic planning. They will be able to learn how each of these departments can be leveraged to further the social justice mission of an organization, whether that is by developing audio/visual accessibility in podcast technology or

This position is **only** available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program. You may **not** contact the host institution to inquire about this position.
finding revenue streams that prioritize mission over profit. This is a full-time commitment for the fellowship year, including dedicated time for professional development activities.

**Responsibilities and tasks:**

- Assess *The Moth*, an industry-recognized show that has a significant catalog with a breadth of hosts, subject matter, guests and audience. While *The Moth* has previously fit the traditional public radio demographic (i.e. largely white in content and audience), it is actively pivoting to reflect a diversity of population and experience with a broader range of hosts, storytellers, and themes.
- Help institutionalize vetting procedures that ensure a DEI lens is considered in each aspect of a project, and that a project’s worth is not based only on financial considerations, but on alignment to PRX's commitment to social justice and equity.
- Develop a rubric that will go beyond tick-box metrics to holistically consider DEI throughout a show’s content (what it covers), production (who is making it), and distribution (who is hearing it), which will be used to guide portfolio decision making.

**Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships);
- Knowledge of social justice issues related to identity, culture, representation, and inequality;
- Regular consumer of media on multiple platforms, and with general understanding of the storytelling devices unique to each;
- Knowledge of how power structures affect communities and institutions, and a desire to impact equitable change in media;
- Research design experience, ability to communicate complex topics to non-specialist audiences, and interest in public media

**APPLICATIONS**

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: [https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships](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