ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

Position Title: Communications Specialist  
Organization: ACCESS  
Location: Dearborn, MI  
Stipend: $62,500 in the first year, $65,000 in the second year, plus health insurance and professional development funding  
Start Date: September 2022

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The mission of ACCESS is to empower communities to improve their health and their economic, social and cultural well-being. ACCESS (Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services) has been serving the community for 50 years. Founded by a group of dedicated volunteers in 1971 out of a storefront in Dearborn’s impoverished south end, ACCESS was created to assist the Arab immigrant population to adapt to life in the United States. Today, ACCESS is the largest Arab American community nonprofit in the United States. With 11 locations and more than 120 programs serving metro Detroit, ACCESS offers a wide range of social, economic, health and educational services to a diverse population. ACCESS continues to honor its Arab American heritage while serving as a nonprofit model of excellence. Through its three national institutions – the Arab American National Museum (AANM), the National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC), and the Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP) – ACCESS serves all Americans.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The fellow will be working with a new, innovative program at ACCESS that uses the humanities to address inequities in health outcomes for Arab Americans. The Center for Arab Narratives (CAN) is housed within the Arab American National Museum, an institution of ACCESS. The goal of CAN is to facilitate interdisciplinary research on the Arab and Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) communities in the United States and engage the public with that research. CAN also aims to bridge perspectives from humanities and public health and show their interrelatedness; make research relevant beyond academic walls; pursue high quality, accurate, and representative data on Arab and MENA populations; and offer research-based, informed perspectives on the Arab American experience to media, policy makers, community groups, and other audiences. Because Arab Americans and MENA Americans are not a federally recognized minority, though they are often minoritized by US foreign and domestic policies, CAN’s role in highlighting community issues and facilitating research is crucial.

The fellow will utilize their knowledge and skills in a public-facing, and community-centered, manner. To further the goals of CAN, the fellow will be working on three initiatives. First, the fellow will help CAN make research more accessible for the community through a multi-platform social media campaign that uses museum archives to speak to contemporary issues. The goals with this initiative are to illustrate the importance of archival materials as a public good and to use history to address current concerns. To accomplish this the fellow will work with staff across ACCESS, as well as with our scholarly partners across the country. The fellow will be supported by ACCESS communications professionals. Second, in our efforts to bring national awareness to issues that affect the communities we work with, the fellow will pen op-eds and build web-based reports on relevant issues that affect the Arab and MENA communities. These products should be engaging, timely, and present data through a humanities lens. Finally, the fellow will develop an interdisciplinary and multimedia project on an issue facing the Arab and MENA community, based on the fellow’s own scholarly interests. The fellow will gain experience working in a

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multi-faceted community-based organization and will have many opportunities to apply scholarly research skills in a public-facing context.

The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Develop and manage a social media series that uses archival materials from the Arab American National Museum to address contemporary issues. This series will span the term of the fellowship.
- Attend weekly CAN team meetings.
- Write op-eds about issues relevant to the Arab and MENA communities.
- Assist with community education on latest research projects. This may take the form of public workshops, curated special exhibits, community meetings, and/or the creation of educational materials for the public.
- Create at least two web-based reports that present public health data through a humanities lens.
- Complete a project of the fellow’s choosing that uses humanities to address public health (including social determinants of health), and could take the form of a short videos, a workshop series, a publication, a public art project, etc.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields in our FAQ;
- Working knowledge of ethnic studies or US immigration history;
- Experience and/or a vested interest in museums, archives, and public history;
- Ability to communicate effectively with a general public.

Preferred:

- Working knowledge of the Arabic language

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: https://www.acls.org/competitions/acls-leading-edge-fellowships/
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: March 28, 2022, 9pm EDT

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