



ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

Position Title:	Public Programs and Engagement Specialist
Organization:	Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD)
Location:	Hybrid (currently 3 days/week) in office, Los Angeles, CA
Stipend:	\$70,000 in the first year, \$72,000 in the second year
Benefits:	Access to health insurance stipend, professional development funds, and relocation funds
Start Date:	September 2024

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Deeply rooted in Skid Row across a 38-year history of documentation and artmaking in collaboration with community members, [Los Angeles Poverty Department \(LAPD\)](#)'s core mission is to give voice to and strengthen the downtown Los Angeles neighborhood of Skid Row, where the densest population of unhoused people, low- to no-income housing, and services are located. We create deeply researched performances and multidisciplinary artworks that connect the experience of people living in poverty to the social forces that help shape their lives and communities. Our goals are to strengthen community, foster public dialogue, and help give community members a voice in policy making that affects their lives. We work collectively to resist gentrification and displacement, and change the dominant narrative about people living in poverty.

Since we opened the Skid Row History Museum and Archive (SRHMA) in 2015, we have created a thriving arts and community space, hosting more than 200 annual public programs—LAPD-created and curated exhibitions and installations, workshops and performances, conversation events, community meetings, screenings, story shares, and open mic nights, as well as serving as a cooling center on hot days. SRHMA also houses physical and digital archives documenting the community, and makes these publicly available through onsite facilities and a digital platform. Our exhibitions and programs also contribute to the archives through public participatory research and oral history collection. We ensure that the voices of people experiencing poverty are uplifted and documented as a means to assert their human rights.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD) seeks a Public Programs and Engagement Specialist to join our small team of community-engaged artists, archivists, and researchers to examine lessons learned from emergency health care and housing provided to unhoused individuals in Los Angeles during the pandemic, and to publish a book documenting these findings. LAPD has worked with the Director of the LA County Quarantine Medical Sites for the last three years to document the experiences of health care providers and those with whom they worked. A selection of these materials will be used to create an immersive exhibition entitled “Welcome to the COVID Hotel.” The Specialist will be responsible for organizing, promoting, and documenting public programs in affiliation with the exhibition as well as working with community members to conduct public participatory research and oral histories with Skid Row residents who received health care and/or housing provided through Project Roomkey, Project Homekey, and other emergency measures enacted during the pandemic. Reporting to the Executive Director John Malpede, and working collaboratively with Malpede and Associate Artistic Director Henriette Brouwers, the Specialist will determine key issues for further research and identify project stakeholders, community partners, and narrators who will contribute to the programs, oral history

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You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.

collection, and publication. Areas for further research might include: uses and challenges of harm reduction; viabilities of single-room occupancy hotels; centralized versus decentralized service provision.

Through work with multiple city and county housing and health care agencies, grassroots initiatives, and Skid Row residents and stakeholders, the Specialist will be afforded networking and professional development opportunities related to community-engaged and responsive policy and planning. They will gain communications and outreach experience necessary for facilitating dialogue on a multiscale level, including public officials, community-based organizations, and local residents (housed and unhoused). The Specialist will gain content expertise related to ongoing local and national efforts to create equitable solutions to housing and health care challenges especially for impoverished and unhoused people, applicable to continuing work with research-based think tanks, community-based and non-governmental organizations, and municipal, state, and federal agencies. The Specialist will also gain related project management, communications, and outreach experience transferable to other social justice and professional arenas. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Organize and publicize a series of 3 story shares, one public program of the Specialist's design, and a final listening session at SRHMA aimed to advance understanding of the issues and document experiences of participants.
- Review and synthesize information gleaned from existing oral histories and archived materials related to "Welcome to the COVID Hotel."
- Identify approx. 10-12 additional individuals to interview.
- Identify issues to research and individuals who can share experiences related to harm reduction, funding and managerial challenges of nonprofit hotel housing (including single-room occupancy).
- Conduct affiliated research to contextualize findings.
- Identify contents, select imagery, edit, and contribute to a 112pp publication documenting lessons learned (as expressed by oral history narrators and others engaged by the project) and recommendations.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Ability to write clearly—for and sometimes with—lay audiences; facility with interdisciplinary research.
- Interest in engaging a broad population, including artists, scholars, public health professionals, and people experiencing poverty and homelessness.
- Interest in learning or prior experience with community-based research and archiving.
- Teaching experience (which will be applied to assisting community members, student interns, and volunteers in archiving practices).
- Evidence of strong communication skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively.

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: <https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships>

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- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org).
- Application deadline: 9:00 PM EDT, March 13, 2024.

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