



ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

Position Title	Research & Impact Manager
Organization	The Center for Cultural Power
Location	Remote
Stipend	\$70,000 in the first year, \$72,000 in the second year
Benefits	Access to employer health insurance. Professional development funds provided by ACLS.
Start Date	September 2026

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The [Center for Cultural Power](#) (Cultural Power) empowers BIPOC artist disruptors and culture bearers to envision and engineer the safe and equitable future we all aspire to create. Cultural Power resources and connects these leaders to each other and to movements, supporting and training them using tested and scalable narrative and culture strategy models, and amplifying their most impactful work. As a leader in the cultural strategy field, Cultural Power has been able to take risks, test our models with key communities, regions, and on a national scale, and create a cultural strategy network that unites communities with values-aligned intersectional stories across racial justice issues, geographies, and sectors. We create a thriving ecosystem for creative leaders dedicated to disrupting the status quo. And, we root our work in communities that bear the brunt of systemic inequities to uplift their voices and stories and help promote their solutions.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Research & Impact Manager will play an integral role in implementing Cultural Power's new Strategic Plan to create a vibrant, pluralistic cultural future where historically marginalized artists shape narratives that build belonging, solidarity, and a thriving multi-racial democracy. This position will work with the Programs, Communications, and Development teams across Cultural Power's focus areas, including racial, gender, climate, and migrant justice, civic engagement, and health equity. Reporting to the Director of Research and Impact within the Programs team, the Research & Impact Manager will serve as an embedded, culturally responsive researcher and work collaboratively with staff across the organization.

The Research & Impact Manager will contribute to three main areas of the Strategic Plan:

1. Facilitate narrative alignment across programs and departments. This role will stay up-to-date and advise the organization on the latest narrative research, and synthesize and enact learnings from staff, artists and culture bearer participants, and audience response research on what's working well, and uncover the growing edges where Cultural Power's narrative system and training programs can push the field in new directions.
2. Evaluate and strengthen the CultureStrike Network, a new initiative that brings together thousands of artist disruptors, culture bearers, and movement groups across regions and indigenous communities under shared cultural, narrative, and civic engagement strategies — building collective infrastructure for transformational social change.
3. Author research-based impact storytelling about Cultural Power's programs to help the field understand how cultural and narrative strategy, centered on values-aligned artists and culture bearers, can broaden public imagination, and shift mindsets, behavior and policy towards a just, inclusive, multiracial democracy.

This role will collaborate with the Communications and Development teams to highlight the impact of narrative strategy work. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

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

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Lead the annual update of Cultural Power's Narrative Alignment Report, incorporating staff and participant learnings, and narrative predictions from the field.
- Support the Director of Research & Impact to advise program staff on how to implement the Narrative Tracking System, to assess how art and cultural activations reach, engage, and mobilize audiences and communities, and contribute to narrative tipping points over time.
- Thought leadership based on the Fellow's interests and area(s) of expertise, for example: research reports, op-eds, conference or panel presentations, building relationships with think tanks and academic institutions, etc.
- Support audience response testing (survey design, analysis, and reporting).
- Develop and implement tools to track the CultureStrike Network's metrics of success, including network health, media and civic engagement, and coalition and membership growth.
- Conduct culturally responsive research with artists and culture bearers, which may include online participant observation, interviews, focus groups and surveys, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, and collective sensemaking sessions.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Qualitative research skills and experience or interest in culturally responsive, participatory and equitable approaches to research & evaluation.
- Strong writing skills and the ability to distill complex information and data for diverse audiences.
- Cultural fluency: experience working directly with or as part of institutions that serve underrepresented communities.
- Strong project management skills and the ability to manage large projects by demonstrating initiative, attention to detail, and receptivity to feedback.

Preferred:

- Knowledge of one or more of Cultural Power's focus areas: racial, gender, climate, migrant justice, civic engagement, and health equity.
- Experience or interest in the role of artists, culture bearers, media, narrative and popular culture in social movements and in social change.
- Experience using quantitative methods, such as designing surveys and interpreting survey results.

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: 9 PM EDT, March 11, 2026.

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