



ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

Position Title	Curriculum & Impact Research Manager
Organization	Destiny Arts Center
Location	Oakland, CA
Stipend	\$72,000 in the first year, \$74,000 in the second year
Benefits	Access to employer health insurance. Professional development funds and relocation funds provided by ACLS.
Start Date	September 2026

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

[Destiny Arts Center](#) (Destiny) is a leading creative youth development institution with experience working with Oakland children, families, and communities since 1988. Destiny Arts Center’s mission is to inspire and ignite social change through the arts. We bring high-quality arts programming grounded in culturally relevant movement (e.g., hip hop dance, traditional African dance forms, martial arts) to young people from low-income and historically under-resourced communities for free or at a reduced cost. Rooted in violence prevention philosophies and our “Warrior’s Code” (Love, Care, Respect, Honor, Responsibility, Peace), Destiny’s programs use the arts to foster safe, peaceful, and healthy environments, supporting young people as they develop their skills as artists, global citizens, and advocates for peace in their communities and beyond. Through school and community programs and classes offered at our North Oakland center, Destiny reaches over 5000 students in Oakland and the Bay Area annually. Destiny programs are open to all youth, and we are particularly committed to ensuring that low-income youth of color in Oakland have equitable access to the arts.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Destiny Arts Center seeks a Curriculum & Impact Research Manager to lead the codification of our curriculum for our slate of arts-based youth development programs. This role will clearly articulate the intended outcomes of our work, while mapping how young people progress and matriculate through our programs. The Research Manager will work closely with teaching artists, program staff, and organizational leadership to translate complex program pathways into clear, compelling frameworks that inform practice, communicate impact to funders and stakeholders, and strengthen long-term program design and evaluation efforts. In the second year the fellow would help to socialize and integrate these models into the various departments in the organization and ensure that practices are informed by the models. The Research Manager would be supervised by the Deputy Director of Programs. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Work with Destiny’s leadership team to lead the codification of curriculum for a suite of arts-based youth development programs.
- Work with the program team to analyze existing curriculum, teaching practices, and student progression to codify program structures and learning pathways.
- Identify and define short-, medium-, and long-term program outcomes aligned with organizational mission and youth development best practices.
- Map how students matriculate through programs, including entry points, progression, and transitions to advanced opportunities.
- Produce polished written reports and visual models for internal use, funder communications, and potential publication.
- Engage with staff throughout Destiny to provide recommendations for evaluation tools and outcome measurement approaches.
- Collaborate with program staff, leadership, and external partners to validate findings and ensure accuracy.

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

- Support in the implementation of the models to the program and teaching staff in collaboration with Program Directors and Managers.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Ability to build trust and collaborate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Passion for Destiny Arts Center’s mission and values.
- Well-organized, detail-oriented, flexible and able to handle a variety of tasks.
- Strong research and analytical skills, including both qualitative and quantitative methods.
- Experience working with youth development, education, or arts-based organizations.
- Proven ability to translate complex concepts into accessible language and visuals.
- Excellent writing, editing, and communication skills.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, especially in communicating data to non-technical audiences.
- Commitment to racial equity, community accountability, and youth empowerment.
- Strong facilitation skills to lead collaborative model-building sessions with diverse stakeholders.
- Understanding of equity-centered practices.
- Capacity to work independently while managing multiple projects and deadlines.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to build trust with both youth and adult collaborators.

Preferred:

- Familiarity with arts education, youth development, or wraparound services.
- Knowledge of culturally responsive programming.
- Knowledge of arts-based youth development pedagogy and curriculum design.
- Experience conducting qualitative and quantitative research, including focus groups and surveys.

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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