



PUBLIC FELLOWS PROGRAM

Job Title:	Public Programming and Exhibitions Manager
Organization:	Humanities Action Lab
Location:	Newark, NJ
Start Date:	September 1, 2020

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The Humanities Action Lab (HAL) (www.humanitiesactionlab.org) is a national center for testing and evaluating how to activate public humanities—especially participatory history, memory, and story-sharing—to address urgent social issues. HAL is a coalition of universities, issue organizations, and public spaces in over 20 cities, based at Rutgers University-Newark, that collaborate to produce community-curated national public humanities projects. Students and community stakeholders in each community collaborate to research and develop shared national exhibits, web projects, public programs, and other innovative strategies for humanities-based public engagement. Projects travel nationally and internationally to museums, public libraries, cultural centers, and other exhibit venues in each of the communities that helped create them.

HAL's first project, *States of Incarceration* (www.statesofincarceration.org), is a traveling exhibit, web platform, and series of public dialogues on the past, present, and future of mass incarceration. Launched in 2016, it continues to welcome new local partners who both create their own local "chapter" and host the national exhibit, and is currently booked through the end of 2020, with more partners joining all the time. HAL's newest project is *Climates of Inequality: Stories of Environmental Justice* (www.climatesofinequality.org), created by students and frontline communities in 21 different cities, telling histories of environmental justice and their legacies for climate change through an installation that includes VR and other media. *Climates of Inequality* is traveling to all the communities that created it, with new partners joining along the way. Exhibiting partners include a wide range of institutions, from the Bell Museum in St. Paul to the Arizona Historical Society to small community centers.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Public Programming and Exhibitions Manager supports the local staging of both *States of Incarceration* and *Climates of Inequality* as they travel. This will afford opportunities for collaboration with all three institutions comprising HAL's local teams: university, community organization(s), and exhibiting venue. Local staging involves both public programming, and support for curation of companion exhibits that complement the national traveling installation by focusing more deeply on local stories and issues. The exhibit is shown in each city for an average of four-six weeks. In the months leading up to each showing, the Manager will work closely with local hosts to design public programs, build collaborations with local organizations, develop and execute a communications and press strategy, and plan for documentation and evaluation. Using HAL project funds, the Manager will travel to select host communities (approximately three per year) for three to four days to support and document the public programs and conduct visitor and participant evaluations. By traveling to program sites to represent the national collective and observe, document, and evaluate the local programs, the Manager will connect programs together into a shared national conversation.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- **Public program design:** programs range from healing circles to dynamic lectures to public actions. Some local partners have great capacity and design incredibly innovative programs; others need ideas and support. The Manager will build out a tool kit for partners that documents and disseminates model engagement strategies and will use it to support local partners in developing their programs.
- **Local curation:** Local companion exhibits range from visual art displays to additional didactic panels to participatory installations. Here too local partners have a range of capacities; the Manager will build out a tool kit for partners that documents and disseminates model curatorial strategies and will use it to support local partners in developing their companion exhibits.
- **Documentation and evaluation:** The Manager will coordinate and oversee documentation efforts at each venue, ensuring events are well documented and shared through project communications platforms and websites. Working with HAL's evaluation consultant and existing materials, the Manager will administer and analyze visitor and participant surveys to assess the impact of programs and exhibits on both visitors and the stakeholders/partners who hosted them. They will work with venues in advance to plan for administration of surveys and other evaluation instruments (e.g., simple quantifying of how many people attended the exhibit and programs) or administer those instruments themselves where appropriate. They will collect all completed surveys and other data, analyze data as it comes in and prepare interim reports. They will observe and record the biggest issues, questions, and conflicts that arise and sharing this information with the hub and other partners to better support programs at future venues.

QUALIFICATIONS

- PhD in the humanities or humanistic social sciences;
- Ability to collaborate with a diversity of people
- Passion for connecting past and present and activating the humanities for social justice
- Excellent organizational and communications skills
- Creative satisfaction from serving as a midwife for others' (i.e. local partners') creative expressions, more than asserting their own voice
- Demonstrated interest in either criminal justice or climate/environmental issues a significant advantage, but not required

The position requires travel to HAL sites approximately 3 times per year for 3 to 4 days per visit.

STIPEND AND BENEFITS

Each 2020 Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow receives an annual stipend of \$70,000, as well as access to employer-based health insurance through the host organization. In addition, ACLS provides funds for relocation and professional development. Fellows receive professional mentoring and participate in career development programming, both in-person and virtually.

APPLICATIONS

- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS online application system (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: March 18, 2020, 9 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

Visit <http://www.acls.org/programs/publicfellowscomp> to learn more about the Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows program. This position is only available through this program; please do not contact the host organization directly.