



ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2025

Position Title	Associate Curator and Summit Coordinator
Organization	National Public Housing Museum
Location	Chicago, IL
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 2025

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The [National Public Housing Museum](#) (NPHM) is the first cultural institution dedicated to interpreting the American experience of public housing. It began as a dream of public housing residents to preserve the last remaining building of the Jane Addams Homes on the Near West Side of Chicago as a site of conscience—a historic site that calls on the power of place and memory to create a dialogue between history and the most pressing issues facing us today. Renovations are well underway to transform the space into a vibrant hub of history and art, a civic incubator, a cultural training center, and a mixed-use site that also includes 15 units of housing. We believe that a 21st-century museum can be all of these things, and we have diligently cultivated this capacious vision since our founding in 2007. We will occupy our new building starting in 2025; meanwhile, we host exhibits and public programs at our offices in Chicago’s River North neighborhood.

Driven by our mission to preserve, promote, and propel the right of all people to a place to call home, we create opportunities for visitors to understand the history and scope of housing insecurity in our nation and to take informed action. By leveraging humanities assets, including art, historic artifacts, personal narratives, and more, we make this complex issue legible to the public. NPHM serves as a model for a new kind of cultural institution, where diverse participants gather to confront structural marginalization and discrimination and collectively reimagine the future of communities and society.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Associate Curator and Summit Coordinator will be the project manager for the Case Studies for Truly Public Housing annually rotating exhibit and summit. The Associate Curator will work closely with and report directly to the Executive Director, who serves as the Chief Curator of the Museum, and serve as liaison with the guest curator for the exhibition. This exhibition and summit are presented in order to learn from housing projects across the country. Each year, NPHM invites a guest curator to help curate a case study of an American municipality that has creatively addressed an urgent housing issue. Working with the NPHM’s esteemed scholar advisor committee, the Associate Curator will help manage the exhibition project and shape research questions to make content legible to diverse publics. They will also work with other museum staff and local partners to coordinate an annual summit in partnership with a local university that brings together a diverse cross section of the public along with public housing residents, scholars, urban planners, industry professionals and students. The summit will draw from the case study to explore the future of housing. The role of Case Studies Associate Curator would significantly expand the museum’s capacity as a center for learning and discourse. This is a full-time, union position. NPHM has a current COVID-19 policy and requires proof of vaccination at time of hire unless employees have an approved exception to the policy. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Assist in curation and project coordination of the Annual Case Studies Exhibit and Summit.

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

- Facilitate and coordinate the exhibition planning process with the Guest Curator and exhibitions team, keeps projects on track, helps to foster team collegiality and mutual respect to create an exhibit that engages, challenges, inspires, and delights guests.
- Collaborate with a university partner that is selected to host the annual summit for Case Studies, including helping to inform and issue invitations to speakers and participants.
- Apply an expansive and inclusive lens to selecting partners and participants for the summit.
- Collaborate to conduct research and develop interpretive elements, including artifact and object identification, texts, activities, and digital tools.
- Explore new exhibition strategies that advance diversity, equity, inclusion and access.
- Create, maintain, and archive documentation related to the project, using Past Perfect and other software programs as necessary.
- Help to collect artifacts related to the exhibit including loans, acquisitions, and gifts.
- Establish and maintain working relationships with individuals, relevant community organizations, and institutions with access to knowledge and artifacts related to the exhibition.
- Assist in label and vinyl text and copy-editing.
- Collaborate with museum staff to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the exhibit and summit.
- Other duties related to the project as assigned.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Committed to cultural activism.
- Experience using storytelling, visual media and/or exhibition making and curating as a mode of communicating and producing knowledge.
- Interest and familiarity working with art or artifacts and/or a willingness to learn.
- Interest in and enthusiasm for the history of public housing.
- Highly organized person with project management experience.
- Exceptional oral and interpersonal communication skills.
- Outstanding relationship-building skills.
- Ability and willingness to collaborate between teams and partners.
- Detailed-oriented and the ability to multitask.

Preferred:

- Candidates with a meaningful connection to public housing are preferred.
- Some degree of Spanish language fluency.
- Experience in planning conferences, events or large gatherings.

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 12, 2025.

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