2015 Carlson Civic Fellowship Positions

Entre Hermanos
LGBT Latino Public Policy and Community Mobilization

Context
Mission: “To promote the health and well-being of the Latino Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and questioning community in a culturally appropriate environment through disease prevention, education, support services, advocacy and community building.”

Our work is primarily in the areas of HIV Prevention, support and referrals for Latino LGBTQ people, and advocacy / community mobilizing. In recent years we have developed our capacity for work around civic engagement and community mobilizing. In 2012 we participated in the campaign for Marriage Equality and Referendum 74. We have also participated in voter registration and efforts for comprehensive immigration reform. We have additionally received funding from the City of Seattle for community organizing and leadership development, so we see our work as part of a broader social justice movement. We have also engaged with the city of Seattle and King County around their respective Race and Social Justice initiatives. In 2013 Entre Hermanos and about a dozen other grassroots organizations were contracted by the City of Seattle’s Police Commission to help gather public input on a series of proposed reforms to the police department. This was a fast-turnaround project that we were able to successfully complete and which gave our community a voice in this important area of reform. We have been gradually growing our work in this area, building our capacity and incorporating [structural] social justice work into our overall scope.

Fellowship Position
Our need is for developing and tracking a social and economic justice agenda, specifically for the 2015 Legislative session [January-March] and then beyond that, once the session is over. Our organization has participated in legislative advocacy for the past 5+ years, and we hope to grow this effort by developing our own legislative priorities and then participating with other groups that are advocating in Olympia around social justice agendas. Much of the work on developing an initial legislative agenda will be done prior to the arrival of a Carlson Fellow so that when the Fellow arrives, they will immediately become involved in the process of finalizing our legislative priorities for the 2015 Legislature in Olympia.

The Fellow will:
- Participate in meetings with other Washington state groups that are discussing legislative priorities, conduct research on social service needs that affect the Latino LGBT community, and prepare reports that convey the findings. The Fellow will track legislation that is determined to be of interest, and report on its progress.
- Help develop a Communications Plan to inform our constituents about opportunities for action (such as sending email or making phone calls) to influence lawmakers. There will be several opportunities to visit the Capitol for specific events such as Latino Legislative Day.
- At the conclusion of the legislative session, the Fellow will participate in evaluating the outcome of the session vis-a-vis our priorities. At that time, a post-legislative Latino LGBT social justice agenda will be developed in consultation with Entre Hermanos leadership and other social justice organizations and groups.
- In the final months of the Fellowship, the student will oversee implementation of the social justice agenda, including plans for sustainability beyond the period of the Fellowship.

The ideal candidate will have interest and skills in these areas:
- Basic research skills using internet
- Excellent writing and verbal communication skills
- Strong attention to detail
- Ability to work collaboratively and independently
- Strong interpersonal, organizational, and team-building skills
- Flexibility and openness to new ideas
- Ability to work well with diverse co-workers
- Willingness to ask questions and learn
- Effective multi-tasking and prioritization abilities
- Ability to glean useful information at meetings and prepare reports

Questions? Contact engage@uw.edu, 206-543-4282 or visit Mary Gates Hall 171. Please do not contact organizations directly.
2015 Carlson Civic Fellowship Positions

International Rescue Committee
Citizenship-Preparation Program

Context
The International Rescue Committee (IRC) serves refugees and communities victimized by oppression or violent conflict worldwide. Founded in 1933, the IRC is committed to freedom, human dignity and self-reliance. This commitment is expressed in emergency relief, protection of human rights, post-conflict development, resettlement assistance, and advocacy. The IRC in Seattle provides the services and support needed to assist refugees, asylees and victims of human trafficking to rebuild their lives and become independent and involved members of the community.

The IRC in Seattle provides a number of services to refugees, asylum recipients, survivors of human trafficking, and special immigrant visa holders, including:

- Resettlement assistance including housing assistance and referrals to service providers;
- Job readiness and placement assistance;
- Cultural adjustment programming, including cultural orientation and social support groups for women;
- Community orientation for adults and children;
- Immigration services and assistance with adjustment of status;
- Case management services; and
- Volunteer opportunities for both refugees and other community members.

Fellowship Position
The IRC in Seattle seeks to improve and strengthen its citizenship preparation programming, and a Carlson Civic Fellow would be an ideal fit for this project. Refugees are eligible for citizenship through naturalization 5 years after their arrival in the United States, and IRC in Seattle maintains that more refugees would apply for citizenship if they felt confident that they could pass the naturalization test. The IRC in Seattle would ask the Civic Fellow to evaluate other citizenship preparation courses offered both within King County and across the country and consult with IRC staff on which best practices could be implemented. Using this information, the Civic Fellow would pilot the project under the supervision of the Community Integration Programs Coordinator and the immigration team.

The Fellow will:

- Evaluate and compare different citizenship preparation programs and provide overview to IRC staff (January);
- Develop a citizenship preparation program pilot plan, which may include the supervision of other volunteers if the Civic Fellow believes it is appropriate (February);
- Pilot the citizenship pilot project (late February – March);
- Evaluate pilot and develop sustainability plan for continuing pilot project (April – May);
- Assist with grant research and writing for citizenship preparation in coordination with IRC staff (throughout project period).

To fulfill this role, an individual must demonstrate the following:

- Strong organization skills;
- Strong interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills;
- Patience and willingness to try new ideas with no guarantee of success;
- Willingness to learn from mistakes;
- Clear communication style, both written and verbal; and
- Interested in learning about other cultures.

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Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda)
IDEA Space: Public Safety Program

Context
Since 1975, SCIDpda has strived to ensure community members of all income levels, ages, and ethnicities can live and thrive in our neighborhood. Our mission is to preserve, promote, and develop the Seattle Chinatown International District as a vibrant community and unique ethnic neighborhood.

Historically, the Chinatown International District has been a culturally-vibrant, welcoming place for immigrants and refugees. However, our community continually struggles with a host of ongoing challenges. Over time, as our neighborhood population became increasingly low-income and our affordable housing stock began to decay, families were forced to move away. Senior housing also became substandard, and the economic vitality of the neighborhood businesses began to suffer. Encroaching, fast-paced development, including stadiums and freeways, and the rising cost of living near downtown continually threaten to displace and destroy our traditional community.

In response to these challenges, SCIDpda was formed by the community to revitalize our neighborhood through economic and community development that preserves our community’s multi-ethnic culture and heritage. Today our work falls into these focus areas: culturally responsive Senior Services, Affordable Housing, Commercial Properties, Community Engagement, and Economic Development.

Fellowship Position
The Carlson Civic Fellow will be working in our IDEA Space program, which is the community resource and development center in the Chinatown International District (CID). Our program focuses on community engagement and economic development, and within these areas we work on issues of public safety, façade improvement, building preservation, and small business assistance. The Carlson Civic Fellow will be assisting in our public safety area. We look at economic development from a holistic perspective—there are many factors that play into a neighborhood’s growth economically and engaging in issues around public safety is key.

The Carlson Civic Fellow will be aiding us in two very specific areas that not only address public safety, but engage and connect residents and community members:

1. Assisting us in re-launching our Neighborhood Block Watch Program, which was developed roughly four years ago with a focus on crime prevention and ownership of the streets. Residents, employees, business owners, and families all participate in the block watch for community empowerment, efficacy, and cohesion. The program was put on hold about a year ago, we would like the Carlson Civic Fellow to aid us in working with the IDEA Space staff and the community to bring it back. The Neighborhood Block Watch occurs twice a week, in the evening, for one hour.

2. Assisting IDEA Space staff in planning and implementing the neighborhood Spring Clean. This year’s Spring Clean will be on April 25, 2015. This event is organized in partnership with the Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area, City Year, and is sponsored by Comcast. Last year, around 500 individuals volunteered at various projects around the CID. The Carlson Civic Fellow will assist in recruiting projects and volunteers, as well as the day of logistics (handling our cleaning materials, t-shirts, snacks) and post-event wrap-up and feedback.

For this position, we need an individual with:
- Strong interpersonal, administrative, and organizational skills.
- The ability to prioritize tasks and work independently.
- The ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people.
- Experience in event planning and volunteer coordination is a bonus, but the Fellow will have guidance and support from IDEA Space staff.

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