INVESTING IN FUTURE SOCIAL IMPACT LEADERS

faoschwarzfellowship.org
FALL 2020
Since 2006, the FAO Schwarz Family Foundation has funded fellowship positions at leading nonprofit organizations for recent college graduates transitioning from the world of learning to the world of work.

Through the Fellowship program, we provide students aspiring to careers in social impact and social justice the opportunity to deepen their awareness of the nonprofit sector and develop their leadership skills. This is an experience that has lifetime value—whatever the Fellow chooses to do next.

Interest in the Fellowship continues to grow. This year, there were, on average, over 43 applications for each Fellowship we awarded. Not surprisingly, our newest cohort of Fellows are truly extraordinary and have already accomplished so much. We can’t wait to see their growth and contributions during their Fellowships.

In addition to funding these Fellowships, we directly engage thousands of college students interested in social impact in the course of promoting the program. Students visit our website and read about the work our Fellows are doing. We reach even more through social media.
What we hear from young people is a desire to make a difference in their world. They recognize that challenges as complex as social justice, income inequality and climate change need new thinking and new leadership. And they are excited to talk about life’s purpose.

Hope and passion for change matters more today than ever. Events of the past year have pulled back the curtain on the corrosiveness of inequality in our society. Racism and an ever-increasing wealth gap are persistent problems, and permanent solutions have been few. The pandemic has also prompted many nonprofit organizations to re-evaluate their missions and delivery of services. The whole sector is entering a period of reinvention.

Young people today are not willing to settle for small fixes. They want to change systems from the ground up. But paid fellowships that provide leadership training and exposure to American societal problems are rare and there are few opportunities to gain much-needed experience and training.

The next generation aims to usher in a new era of equality and justice for all. The Fellowship will help identify and nurture such leaders. We can play an instrumental role in supporting their growth and development—and helping them achieve their goals.
A highly selective fellowship program attracting recent graduates interested in nonprofit careers

Offers five or six paid two-year fellowship positions annually

Provides placements at leading nonprofit organizations in Boston, New York and Philadelphia

Includes professional development, networking and mentoring

Serves as a career launch pad for new social impact leaders

“My Fellowship has had a huge impact on my personal and professional development. I’ve gained skills, mentors and an incredible group of friends. I hope to give back a fraction of what it has and continues to give to me.”

Jen Benson | Riverkeeper | 2017 | New York, NY

Jen was hired by Riverkeeper after completing her Fellowship. She manages volunteers, plans an annual day of service for the Hudson River, and works with partner organizations and local groups to activate communities and individuals around issues threatening the Hudson River. Jen is also pursuing a Masters in Environmental Policy at Bard College.
THE FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

DIRECT SERVICE & SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Direct engagement with the people and communities the organization serves
- Special projects that build organizational reach, impact and capacity
- Provides Fellows with two years of broad strategy and service experiences that prepare them for leadership roles in nonprofits

“My Fellowship was a launch pad for a long-term role as a Program Manager with Strong Women, Strong Girls. It launched what I hope will be a creative, innovative and brave career in nonprofit leadership.”

Sarah Kacevich | Strong Women, Strong Girls | 2016 | Boston, MA
Sarah is the Program Director with Farrington Nature Linc, a nonprofit that supports the health and well-being of youth from low-income communities with nature introduction programs.
Training that includes dedicated professional development and leadership training with other Fellows, experts and host organization supervisors

Site visits, presentations and conversations with nationally recognized nonprofit leaders to help Fellows learn more about effective social impact approaches

Opportunities for deepening and sharing ideas through reflection, publishing and collaborative projects with other Fellows

“I’m grateful for the professional development I received. So many aspects of the program set me up for success. The Fellowship was the jumpstart to my career. It helped me find my way to social work (which I’m pretty sure is where I am supposed to be!).”

Maley Mullin Parilla | Jumpstart | 2012 | Boston, MA

After earning a Master’s in Social Work at the University of Chicago, Maley is now a social worker at the Carroll School working with first- through fourth-graders.
THE COHORT & NETWORKS

- A cohort of recent college graduates transitioning to the world of work who share similar goals
- Work colleagues who are passionate about social justice and professionally engaged in critical social issues
- FAO Schwarz alumni Fellows, host organizations, Foundation trustees and national nonprofit leaders who open doors and provide career advice

"I have always been passionate about helping young people so am thrilled to be at Year Up. And I am also excited to make exciting connections with other current and former FAO Schwarz Fellows, my coworkers, and the students we serve."

Taylor Reese | Year Up | 2021 | Philadelphia, PA
Taylor is a second-year Fellow at Year Up in Philadelphia.
THE FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

MENTORING & ADVISING

- Host supervisors offer regular feedback and support the Fellow’s professional development
- Current Fellows, alumni Fellows and Trustees provide guidance and networking assistance
- Every Fellow has a designated alumni Fellow mentor
- The Executive Director of the Fellowship offers ongoing support and mentoring

"The FAO Schwarz Fellowship helped launch my career. I worked with schools across Philadelphia to learn about the concerns of families and school administration. In my current role I draw upon those experiences every day to make a greater impact."

Greg Wright | The Food Trust | 2013 | Philadelphia, PA
Greg is the Community School Coordinator for the Mayor’s Office of Education in Philadelphia.
Since its inception, the Fellowship has worked with over 30 nonprofit host organizations.

In selecting an organization to host a Fellow, the Foundation looks for established and respected nonprofits with a track record of impact. We seek hosts that can provide Fellows with a meaningful professional learning experience and help them grow as leaders. We also look for organizations for whom a Fellow would be a valuable, capacity-building asset.
"Having FAO Schwarz Fellows on our team has had a greater impact on our work and our community than we ever imagined. Our Fellows have been outstanding and the unique dual focus on direct service and special project work has really moved the needle for us in multiple high priority areas."

Elissa Spelman, Executive Director, Breakthrough Greater Boston

Breakthrough Greater Boston prepares low-income students for success in college and trains the next generation of urban teachers using a unique Students Teaching Students model. The organization has hosted three FAO Schwarz Fellows.
LAUNCHING NEW SOCIAL IMPACT LEADERS

One of our 2019 Fellows reflected on her experience and decided to run for office. She is the youngest woman elected to serve on the Marlborough, MA City Council.

From the beginning, the Fellowship has served as a launch pad into nonprofit impact careers. Most Fellows continue to work in the nonprofit/social impact/public policy sector.

ALUMNI FELLOW OUTCOMES

- 35% hired by host organizations
- 60% completed or pursuing graduate degrees
- 98% currently working in the social impact sector
BUILDING THE FELLOWSHIP’S MOMENTUM

From the beginning, the Fellowship prepared Fellows for nonprofit careers. Many of our fellows continue to work in the nonprofit sector and social impact/public policy organizations.

The Foundation is committed to ensuring that talented students considering a career in social impact learn about the Fellowship.

Over 400 different colleges now share the Fellowship opportunity with their students. As a result, we receive interest from a wide range of colleges and universities and are increasingly seen as a highly desirable next step.

2020 APPLICATION RESULTS

- 260 applications—28% increase from 2019
- 105 colleges represented—interest is nationwide
- 2.8% of applicants are awarded Fellowships
JOIN US

Young people hoping for a meaningful career engaged in addressing the challenges of social change have few opportunities to gain real experience and develop the necessary skills. At the same time, nonprofit organizations often have limited resources available to expand their capacity.

The Foundation’s Fellowship Program addresses both of these challenges. Through the FAO Schwarz Fellowship, we support the aspirations of promising students while also increasing the capacity of effective nonprofits.

We’re excited to design opportunities for young people to grow into leaders of high-impact organizations and welcome conversations with those who share our mission and our goals for change as we look to strengthen the Fellowship Program and to foster its continued growth.

The FAO Schwarz Family Foundation has always believed in the imagination of young people and their capacity to change the world. Now, more than ever, we need their thinking and their passion.
“That is the true benefit of the Fellowship: young people gaining on-the-ground perspective of social change work, in all its nuances and challenges, but also reminding us of the incredible vision and innovation inherent in young people.”

Samantha Perlman | Generation Citizen | 2019 | Boston, MA
A few months after completing the Fellowship, Samantha made history as the youngest woman ever elected to the Marlborough City Council. In addition, she is the Civic Engagement Manager at Scholars Strategy Network.