



EMERGING LEADER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY, 2023-2025

Expanding Restorative Justice in Philadelphia's Youth Justice System



Host Organization:	Youth Art & Self-empowerment Project
Location:	Philadelphia, PA
Dates:	October 15, 2023 – October 14, 2025
Salary:	\$50,000 / year, plus benefits

Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellowship

The [Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellowship](#) is a two-year, full-time, hands-on position for early career professionals. Fellows work collaboratively with a host organization and the [Stoneleigh Foundation](#) to execute a project that advances the missions of these organizations and enhances Fellows' professional skills and leadership development. Fellows are also supported by a cohort of peer Emerging Leaders who participate in Foundation programming.

The Project: Expanding Restorative Justice in Philadelphia's Youth Justice System

Traditional responses to escalating gun violence often involve separating young people from their support systems and detaining them in facilities that are well-documented sites of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. This punitive model does very little to help young people take accountability and grow from their mistakes.

To disrupt cycles of violence among young people that often culminate in incidents of firearm injury and death, the Fellow will work with the [Youth Art & Self-empowerment Project](#) (YASP) to expand the scope of the Healing Futures Restorative Justice Diversion Program in Philadelphia's youth justice system. Through the Healing Futures program, participants undergo a process that includes taking accountability for the harms they have caused, healing from their own traumas, identifying and addressing unmet needs, and changing harmful patterns of behavior. Specifically, the Fellow will:

- **Develop a report on the first two years of the Healing Futures program** to highlight its impact on participants, their communities, and the city of Philadelphia. The report will draw upon both quantitative and qualitative data.
- **Promote the report findings widely** via a social media campaign, press conference, and targeted meetings with key system partners.
- Collaborate with the Healing Futures team to **advocate for an expansion of the types of cases eligible for pre-charge restorative justice diversion**, with a particular focus on gun-related cases.

Candidate Qualifications

Candidates should have strong writing and editing skills, data analysis and research experience, and knowledge of social media and narrative storytelling. In addition, experience with the carceral system, restorative justice models, communications and advocacy, and graphic design would be beneficial.

We strongly encourage a diverse pool of candidates to apply, including women, people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ, people with disabilities, and people who have lived experienced of firearm violence and/or system involvement. We invite candidates to include in their cover letters a statement about how their unique backgrounds and experiences might contribute to their perspectives on and execution of the Fellowship Project.

Application Process

Please submit the materials below to Sarah Morris (Sarah@yasproject.com) by June 16, 2023. Please contact Sarah Morris (Sarah@yasproject.com) or Kempis “Ghani” Songster (Kempis@yasproject.com) with any questions.

- A resume or CV
- Two written references preferred
- A cover letter articulating why you would like to participate in the Fellowship, how it will advance your professional goals, why this project interests you, and what prior experience and training you bring that prepares you to lead this Fellowship project

Candidates chosen for an interview will be contacted directly by the Youth Art & Self-empowerment Project. One final candidate will be recommended to and interviewed by the Stoneleigh Foundation in July 2023. In September 2023, Stoneleigh staff will present recommended candidates and projects to its Board of Directors for their final determination. The approved candidate will begin the Fellowship on **October 15, 2023.**

About the Youth Art & Self-empowerment Project

The [Youth Art & Self-empowerment Project](#) (YASP) is a youth-led, intergenerational movement to end youth incarceration. Our holistic approach supports young people impacted by the criminal legal system to express themselves creatively, to grow as leaders and to develop transformative possibilities in their communities and beyond. Together, we implement alternatives for responding to harm and violence in Philadelphia and across the country while building towards our vision of a world without incarceration.