



## EMERGING LEADER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY, 2025-2027

### Building Community Power and Resilience in Fairhill-Hartranft



**THE VILLAGE**  
of arts & humanities

<b>Host Organization:</b>	The Village of Arts and Humanities
<b>Location:</b>	Philadelphia, PA
<b>Dates:</b>	September 8, 2025 – September 7, 2027
<b>Salary:</b>	\$45,000 / 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. Stoneleigh requires Emerging Leader Fellows to attend monthly programming aimed at building knowledge, strengthening leadership and professional skills, and cultivating cohesion among Fellows and the Program Officer. In addition, Fellows are expected to attend Stoneleigh Foundation events held throughout the year (usually 3 to 4), which provide additional opportunities to connect with professionals, mentors, and other stakeholders in the field.

### The Project: *Building Community Power and Resilience in Fairhill-Hartranft*

The Village's resident-led community safety plan project is designed to increase safety in the Fairhill-Hartranft neighborhood through care-centered approaches to violence prevention, with the goal of reducing the need for carceral involvement in the community. The plan is focused on the roots and drivers of violence, recognizing that: 1) neighborhood gun violence is driven by a lack of resources needed to fulfill residents' most critical needs, including quality medical and mental health care, addiction treatment, community spaces, jobs, public education, housing, and food; 2) this dearth of resources is the result of long-term systemic disinvestment driven by racism and classism; and 3) developing capacity for community organizing and neighborhood power-building is an effective strategy for more equitable access to the resources that reduce violence and reverse disinvestment policies.

With this framing in mind, the Fellow will work with the Village's Director of Social Justice Initiatives, Senior Social Worker, and community residents to develop and execute the Village Safety Team's Community Organizing/Power Building Strategy through five stages:

- **Stage 1:** Building trust, community knowledge, and organizing know-how
- **Stage 2:** Developing an organizing and evaluation strategy
- **Stage 3:** Recruiting and training thirty intergenerational community members
- **Stage 4:** Implementing a community organizing strategy (*12 months*)
- **Stage 5:** Evaluating the campaign, celebrating successes, and planning for the future

## Candidate Qualifications

The ideal candidate will possess: An understanding of community organizing, including political education, base building, mass mobilization, and coalitions; a commitment to the needs and lived experiences of community members; experience working and/or living in low-income and/or Black communities; comfort working with people experiencing housing insecurity, food insecurity, and justice involvement; an understanding of the war on drugs, mass incarceration, and civil rights; an ability to engage in both big-picture thinking and on-the-ground relational work; a strengths-based and person-centered approach; an understanding of trauma and historical trauma; an ability to work as part of a team in a fast-paced and evolving community-based organization; and experience working with youth and/or elders.

Desirable, but optional qualifications include: Familiarity with Afrocentric approaches; knowledge of Philadelphia communities; strong listening skills; knowledge of successful gun violence prevention initiatives and restorative and transformative justice; knowledge of policy and programming related to mental health, addiction, job development, education, food, and housing; an appreciation of bottom-up approaches to change; creativity, inquisitiveness, and an interest in the intersection of arts/social justice.

*The Village of Arts and Humanities will not discriminate in its employment practices due to an applicant's race, color, religion, sex, national origin/ancestry, age, sexual orientation, gender identification, genetic information, veteran or disability status, or any other factor prohibited by law. We strongly encourage a diverse pool of candidates to apply, including women, people of color, LGBTQIA2S people, people with disabilities, and people with lived experience of firearm violence/system involvement. We invite candidates to include in their cover letters a statement about how their unique backgrounds might contribute to their perspectives on and execution of the Fellowship Project. The Village is an Afrocentric organization – an inclusive workforce with a variety of views, perspectives, and backgrounds is an integral part of its success.*

## Application Process

Please submit the materials below to [apply@villagearts.org](mailto:apply@villagearts.org) by **April 1, 2025 at 5:00pm**. Please contact Eli Plenk at [eli@villagearts.org](mailto:eli@villagearts.org) with any questions.

- A resume or CV (no more than 2 pages in length)
- Name and contact information of two references
- 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 April 11, 2025. One final candidate will be recommended to and interviewed by the Stoneleigh Foundation in May 2025. In June 2025, 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 **September 8, 2025**.

## About Village of Arts and Humanities

The [Village of Arts and Humanities](#) is a 38-year-old arts and community revitalization organization rooted in Philadelphia's deeply disinvested Fairhill-Hartranft neighborhood. Founded by Afrocentric thinkers amidst the social upheavals of the 1970s and 1980s, its mission is to support artists and Black community residents to imagine, design, and build a more just and equitable society.