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FELLOWSHIP INFORMATION

Application Deadline: February 10, 2025

Program Basics

Fellows work June 9, 2025-August 1, 2025 earning a living wage for 300 hours (\$4800 total). Students are given a project/experience with their host organizations, working 7.5 hours per day, Monday through Thursday. Every Friday the students, as a group, are immersed in the city life of Buffalo with neighborhood walking tours, field trips, cultural experiences, and discussions with guest experts and civic leaders. Friday's are also forums for learning from each other by sharing weekly journals, project experiences, research and other accomplishments. There are specific skill-building opportunities and once/week Fellows get to hear from High Road Alumni. Group housing arrangements are facilitated for those interested (fellows pay). A mandatory one credit pre-course will take place the second half of Spring 2025 with the following dates. Please note in your application if you are unavailable any of the dates:

- Saturday, 3/22 9:30-3:30pm
- Wednesday, 3/26 4:30-7:30pm
- Thursday, 4/10 4:30-7:30pm
- Wednesday, 4/23 4:30-7:30pm

Place

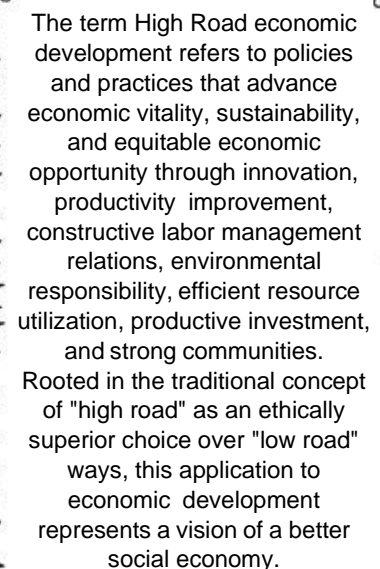
Cornell ILR's extension history begins with Buffalo. Since 1946, ILR has played a vital role in the region, working in partnership with businesses, unions, government, education and community organizations to build an economy that works for all. High Road Fellowships were launched in 2009 as a new way to connect students with practitioners who were driving change in the local economy. Undergoing dynamic reinvention, Buffalo is home to a rich array of creative community leaders and organizations tackling rust belt challenges.

Community Partner

Each student is placed with a host organization affiliated with the Partnership for the Public Good, a civic organization made up of over 300 community partners promoting more equitable and sustainable economic development in Greater Buffalo. PPG produces action research and policy recommendations on pressing local, regional and state concerns. Students gain hands-on experiences working with organizations in the vital nonprofit sector of the economy where job creation, neighborhood revitalization, and the greening of the economy are everyday reality.

Student Criteria

High Road Fellows are Cornell undergraduates interested in grassroots democracy and how individuals can help create a more equitable economy. It is a competitive application process. This year we are excited to invite and accept 2-4 Buffalo State University students.



The term High Road economic development refers to policies and practices that advance economic vitality, sustainability, and equitable economic opportunity through innovation, productivity improvement, constructive labor management relations, environmental responsibility, efficient resource utilization, productive investment, and strong communities. Rooted in the traditional concept of "high road" as an ethically superior choice over "low road" ways, this application to economic development represents a vision of a better social economy.

PROSPECTIVE HIGH ROAD FELLOWSHIP PLACEMENTS AND PROJECTS

The logo for 1199 SEIU, featuring the text "1199 SEIU" in yellow on a purple square background.

1199 SEIU

2421 Main St. Suite 100 Buffalo, NY 14214 | <https://www.1199seiu.org/>

About: With over 450,000 members throughout Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Florida, and Washington, DC, 1199SEIU is the largest and fastest-growing healthcare union in the nation. Since our founding in 1932, our mission has been to stand up for quality healthcare, good jobs and social justice for all.

Project: “2025 Nursing Home Campaign”

Since 2021, the WNY NH team has been working on new strategy and direction to win in the face of a changing long-term care industry. We have now aligned 24 contracts to expire on April 30, 2025. By leveraging the collective power of over 2,500 workers in one geographic area, we aim to introduce new wage and benefit standards that help to improve the lives of our members. This campaign kicks off in Fall of 2024 and negotiations should start in spring of 2025. However, we anticipate negotiations to continue and lead to coordinated strikes across all facilities in the early summer. The High Road Fellow will be assigned to assist with this campaign in all its forms- engaging with members during one-one organizing conversations, helping to lead member meetings in facilities, drafting newsletters and bargaining updates, working a picket line, and more. Aside from the specifics of the campaign, the fellow will learn the day-to-day work of an internal organizer- grievance handling, arbitration prep, labor-management meetings and conflict resolution, training member leaders in the shops, engaging with electeds and press, and more.

ACCESS of WNY

609 Ridge Rd Suite 210, Lackawanna, NY 14218 | <https://accesswny.org/>

About: The mission of ACCESS is to bridge the gap for families and communities by providing education, youth development, immigration and support services to improve their quality of life.

Project: “Enhancing Community Engagement and Support Services”

This fellowship provides Cornell undergraduates with practical, hands-on experience in community service enhancement, focusing on engaged learning and applied research at ACCESS of WNY. Throughout the summer, Fellows will be involved in projects that seek to innovate and improve services in key areas such as immigration support, ESL education, and civic engagement. By working closely with staff, community members, and stakeholders, Fellows will help develop and implement strategic improvements that aim to increase service efficacy and community engagement. The program not only enhances ACCESS of WNY’s service offerings but also develops the Fellows’ skills in project management, community assessment, and program development within a non-profit setting.

Students can expect to engage in meaningful work that supports community initiatives and advocacy efforts. They will have the chance to learn about social issues, collaborate with dedicated professionals, and contribute to impactful projects. Hands-on experience will include

data collection, event planning, and direct client interaction. We encourage open communication and are committed to helping everyone achieve their goals. Most importantly, we expect students to approach their work with interest, empathy, cultural awareness, and a dedication to fostering positive change in the community. **Likely need access to a personal vehicle.**

Big Big Table Community Café

272 Hudson St, Buffalo, NY 14201 | <https://www.bigbigtable.org/>

About: Big Big Table Community Café (BBT) is a pay-as-you-can lunchtime restaurant that uses a participatory model to provide nutritious, healthy meals to individuals and families facing food insecurity in Buffalo's Lower West Side. Our mission is to provide a dignified response to hunger in our community, offering Buffalo accessible nutritious meals, regardless of how the diner chooses to contribute. We make healthy food accessible to all, regardless of financial situation. Big Big Table's daily menu is dynamic, changing with what is seasonal and available, mostly plant-based, and flexible to accommodate dietary concerns. We foster a welcoming environment where community members can enjoy a meal, connect with others, and feel a sense of belonging.

Project: “Quantifying the Impact of Food Rescue: Tracking Donations & Measuring Outcomes”

The fellow will develop and implement a tracking system to monitor food donations received by Big Big Table, specifically by weight, type, and source. They will research and calculate the environmental impact of our food rescue efforts, such as the reduction of food waste sent to landfills and the associated decrease in carbon emissions. Additionally, the fellow will quantify the social benefits, such as the number of meals provided to community members and improvements in food access. The goal is to create a sustainable, user-friendly system that helps Big Big Table better understand and communicate the environmental and social impact of its food rescue operations.

In addition to the data-focused work, part of the fellow's time will be scheduled to allow hands-on experience in the café. This will include becoming familiar with back-of-house operations, such as food preparation and donation sorting, and spending time in the dining room, interacting with our diverse guests. These experiences will allow the fellow to actively participate in our mission and gain a firsthand understanding of how Big Big Table operates and serves the community. This project will complement existing collaborations with other local community organizations focused on food security and sustainability.

The fellow's final work product will be a detailed system for tracking food donations, including a database for recording food by weight, type, and source, alongside metrics for calculating the environmental and social impacts. The fellow will also create a user-friendly dashboard or reporting tool to present this data in a clear and accessible way. Additionally, the fellow will produce a final report summarizing key findings and recommendations for the continued use and improvement of the system.

Buffalo Center For Health Equity

Canisius University, Health Sciences Bldg, Rm 209, 2001 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14208 | <https://buffalohealthequity.com/>

About: The Buffalo Center for Health Equity (BCHE) is committed to eliminating health inequities in our region by addressing the racial, economic, and other social conditions that persist in our communities.

Project: “Maternal Health Equity”

We would like a student to research the current policies we have at a state and local level related to maternal health. We seek to better understand how current policies may be lacking and what changes need to be made to ensure equity for all birthing people. Our hope is to utilize their research and input into a policy recommendation that can bring us closer to equity. This work fits into the larger work of two different coalitions, the African American Health Equity Taskforce and a maternal health workgroup established by HEALTHeLINK. Both of these bodies seek to achieve health equity for Black and brown communities. The final product will be a policy recommendation that the BCHE can help advocate for at either a local or state level. We hope that by having a solid policy recommendation we can rally our maternal health partners around a common goal. Additionally, we start conversation with our elected officials on how important maternal health policy is and how it needs to change.

Center for Self Advocacy

1021 Broadway, Buffalo, NY 14212 | https://www.center4sa.org/about_us

About: We help people with developmental disabilities work, advocate within their community, and have an independent and productive lifestyle.

Project: “Self Advocacy in Action, Outreach, etc.”

This summer we would like to continue working with an intern from the High Road to expose that person to the world of self advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Additionally, this person will assist in other community advocacy related activities. Some examples of this include the area Disability Pride celebration, assisting at the Self Advocacy regional conference, outreach to local legislators on disability access, and assisting CSA in its monthly episode of Self Advocacy in Action (TV show). Our goal for this internship is to engage people around the area of disability rights and to have them learn through doing about the specific issues and challenges of disability access, legislative and community outreach. We also would like our candidate to get a better understanding of the Self Advocacy movement. *People with disabilities and/or knowledge of disability history are highly encouraged to apply. People who are bilingual are also highly encouraged to apply.*

Clean Air Coalition

371 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202 | <https://www.cacwny.org/>

About: The Clean Air Coalition builds power by developing grassroots leaders who organize their communities to run and win environmental justice and public health campaigns in Western New York.

Project: “Clean Air Research and Project Support”

Clean Air works with residents of fenceline communities to develop, run, and win environmental justice campaigns. We have a number of research projects for summer fellows to support our campaigns - from holistically examining the economic impacts of cryptocurrency mining to scientific analysis of air monitoring data to inventorying brownfields-- plenty of questions for a fellow to examine! We will work with the fellow to determine what they are interested in exploring to determine the exact project.

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

726 Exchange Street, Suite 525, Buffalo, NY, 14210 | <https://www.cfgb.org/>

About: For more than a century, the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo has enhanced and encouraged long-term philanthropy in the Western New York community. A 501 (c)(3) organization, the Community Foundation's mission is: Connecting people, ideas and resources to improve lives in Western New York. Established in 1919, the Community Foundation has made the most of the generosity of individuals, families, foundations and organizations who entrust charitable assets to the Community Foundation's care.

Project: "Understanding and Improving delivery of Home Repair funds for low-income property owners in WNY"

CFGB is dedicated to increasing the supply of healthy, sustainable and affordable housing for low-income residents of Buffalo and Erie County. Federal and state-funded home repair programs provide critical funding to property owners to address concerns like leaky roofs, faulty heating systems, and deteriorated lead-based paint. These programs, however, are poorly studied and operated primarily by a non-profit sector that is underfunded, overcapacity and less efficient than it could be. Many of the existing programs are characterized by long waiting lists, staff turnover and challenges with contractor retention.

This initiative seeks to generate a "white paper" on home repair in Buffalo by 1) cataloguing existing home repair programs and the entities that operate them; 2) analyzing the outcomes of these programs over the last five years; 3) identifying unmet needs at the resident and organizational level; and 4) generating a set of recommendations based on information obtained and best practices nation-wide. The white paper would serve as the basis for obtaining additional public and private funds as well as advocacy around improved home repair program delivery.

The final product will be a research paper that summarizes the results of a comprehensive inquiry into home repair programs in Buffalo. Research involves surveying the existing home repair landscape, qualitative interviews with individuals working in the home repair space in Buffalo, as well as some interviews with beneficiaries of the program. Buffalo has among the oldest housing stock in America, as well as one of the poorest populations. This combination has produced an unfortunate reality of poor housing conditions that disproportionately impact low-income people of color, who are more likely to live in housing units that have not been improved, repaired or upgraded in decades. A better understood home repair program delivery system will improve the lives of residents by providing policy makers and practitioners much needed information as well as a road map for improving the way home repair dollars are delivered to residents in need.

Cornell ILR Buffalo Co-Lab, Good DEEDS

617 Main Street, Suite 300, Buffalo, NY, 14203 | <https://www.ilr.cornell.edu/buffalo-co-lab>

About: Cornell ILR Buffalo Co-Lab advances an equitable economy and democratic community, collaboratively integrating scholarly and practical understanding to strengthen civic action. Good DEEDS Initiative (Data for Equitable Economic Development and Sustainability) aims to function as a public data repository and, through the HRP blog and quarterly issue memorandum, a public policy forum. Through these interconnected channels, Good DEEDS seeks to:

- democratize geographic, economic, environmental, and social data and provide training on how to use that data;
- generate a set of shared metrics for monitoring change over time;
- conduct original surveys to shed new light on regional workforce, civil society, economic and ecological health, and quality of life; and
- produce original research, memoranda, and reports to advance a High Road policy agenda.

The overarching mission of Good DEEDS is to provide an empirical basis for ensuring that development and community change in and beyond Upstate New York follows the High Road to shared prosperity for all residents, from the present to all future generations.

Project: “Building a Statewide Neighborhood Change Dashboard for New York”

Since 2019, part of the ILR Buffalo Co-Lab’s mission has been to democratize data, through the production of open access mapping applications and data-driven reports, to inform initiatives that seek to affect equitable community change. Building on local efforts such as the Co-Lab’s 2022 Buffalo Council District and Neighborhood Information System, the Co-Lab’s 2025 High Road Fellow will work with the office’s research team to design and develop an interactive neighborhood change dashboard for New York State (NYS). The envisioned tool, or set of tools, will allow users to quickly explore recent changes in various indicators that are actively monitored by the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS). The 2025 High Road Fellow for this project will be actively involved in scoping, data collection, data cleaning, database design and data management, and [time-permitting] testing and troubleshooting interactive mapping and data visualization tools. While previous experience in collecting and managing data – especially Census Bureau data and especially in software environments such as R, Tableau, and Microsoft Office (e.g., Excel) – is preferred, training will be provided as necessary to ensure the Fellow’s success in this position. When finished, the NYS Neighborhood Change Dashboard will be published online and hosted at <http://highroadpolicy.org>, where the 2025 High Road Fellow will be acknowledged for their work on the project.

Every Bottom Covered

877 E Delavan Ave, Buffalo, NY 14215 | <https://www.everybottomcovered.org/>

About: Every Bottom Covered, Inc. is dedicated to addressing diapering and clean basic hygiene needs for underserved families across all eight counties of Western NY through free distribution, raising awareness, and advocacy—promoting dignity, health, & well-being for all.

Project: “No Bottom Uncovered: Expanding Rural Diaper Distribution in WNY”

Rural areas encounter poverty rates of over 10%, so we are working to drastically increase our capacity through the lens of sustainability by addressing challenges to growing the rural diaper distribution program across all 8 counties of WNY. In Erie County alone, there are over 49,000 children under 5 living in poverty, and many of those families struggle to provide diapers.

We are presently identifying and resourcing hubs in all eight counties so that more families can access our services. We need staffing, warehouse space, diapers and supplies, distribution planning, vehicle(s), and an increased marketing effort to let families know they can come to us for help. This is our largest campaign to date and we could use a fellow for research, advocacy, identifying potential partnering agencies in outlying counties, etc. We have a network of social service agencies we partner with to get supplies to families in need. The final work product would include a logic model that anchors our key decisions and guides our future steps towards a WNY that prioritizes the health and well being of families struggling with poverty. This model can be a visual representation of the relationships between our objectives, activities, and the intended outcomes—diapers and diapering supplies along with personal care products for free for those in need across all 8 counties of WNY.

Many families struggle to cover the cost of diapers, with 1 in 2 parents reporting that they can’t afford enough diapers to keep their children clean and dry. Currently, Buffalo is ranked the third poorest city of its size in the US, while close to 24% of residents in Niagara Falls live in poverty.

Extra Extra Pizza

549 W Utica St, Buffalo, NY 14213 | <https://www.extraextrapizza.com/>

About: We are Buffalo's first tipless full service restaurant, and we're looking to redefine how a restaurant functions from within as well as how we serve our community.

Project: "Buffalo Public School x Extra Extra Book It!"

We are looking to initiate a reading program for BPS elementary students akin to the 90's classic "Book It." Students who meet a monthly reading goal would be treated to a personal pizza at Extra Extra. There is no current book it program running currently. The fellow would be responsible for coordinating with BPS officials to get the program off the ground, as well as the details. Work product would include information for parents, educators, and workers at Extra Extra on how to manage future execution of the program. We hope that this program will be a great introduction for BPS students to our restaurant, and that we can strengthen/deepen our relationship with the school to help with unmet needs.

Families Aimed Toward Excellence

The Exchange at Beverly Gray, 334 East Utica St., STE 1, Buffalo, NY | <https://www.facebook.com/FATE.FamilySupport/?locale=fo> FO

About: "Families Aimed Toward Excellence (FATE) is on a mission to transform the educational landscape for students and parents alike. Through our comprehensive programs, we empower families with the confidence and tools needed to excel in school, work, and life. At the heart of our initiatives is a commitment to promoting digital literacy and STEM education in underprivileged communities, ensuring access and equity for all. We introduce culturally responsive and community-driven learning experiences, bridging the digital divide and fostering a love for science, technology, engineering, math, and computer science.

Project: "Bits & Bytes STEM project"

We have three potential direct action experiences contributing to the broader goal of fostering an equitable STEM landscape in Buffalo. 1. Community Needs Assessment: Have the fellow conduct a comprehensive needs assessment in underserved neighborhoods to identify specific barriers to digital literacy and STEM education. This research can guide program development and resource allocation. 2. Family Engagement Initiatives: Involve the fellow in creating and implementing family engagement sessions that educate parents on digital tools and resources available for their children. This could enhance parental support for STEM education at home. 3. Partnership Building: Engage the fellow in outreach efforts to build partnerships with local businesses, tech companies, and educational institutions that can provide resources, mentorship, or funding for STEM initiatives.

HALT/WNY Jails Justice Network /Clergy Jail Visiting Project

**617 Main Street, Buffalo 14203 | <https://nycaic.org/>, <https://nysjailsjustice.org/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558322114762>

About: #HALTsolitart seeks an end to solitary confinement, in NYS prisons and jails. JJN seeks transparency, accountability, human rights, an end to abuse, and reduced incarceration in jails. CJVP uses the access to jails granted to clergy by NYS law to provide otherwise absent transparency, with the goal of improving human rights and conditions in our jails.

Project: “Increase Jail Transparency in WNY”

The Fellow’s work will take various forms, including assisting and sometimes participating in the No New Jail (NNJ) campaign advocacy for legislation (we are currently working on three bills) through local meetings with legislators and participation in Albany advocacy days monitoring our jails for compliance with the HALT Act.

For the Clergy Jail Visiting Project (CJVP), there will be 6 inspection visits by teams of clergy, interviewing incarcerated people and observing conditions. A first report of findings and recommendations is expected before the end of 2024. We hope also to set up a community jail visiting program modeled on the one operated by JJN advocates in Broome County, which uses the normal jail visiting process, getting names of people who desire visits and finding/coordinating student and community volunteers to go see them, to collect a large amount of valuable information on what is happening in their jails.

The overall goals are to advance public awareness of the harms perpetrated by our jails and prisons, to create pressure on and by public officials to make reforms, and to decrease reliance on incarceration to solve social problems.

Several potential projects are listed below but the choice and prioritization will depend significantly on the capabilities and preferences of the fellow, and also on how the campaigns develop over the seven months from now to June 2025. Possible areas of work: Participate in analysis of data on jail conditions and practices coming out of the CJVP. Help design and begin execution of a survey to determine what transparency and accountability, and community input mechanisms for county jails exist in other counties in NYS, starting with a manageable set of counties. Work with advocates and clergy in Niagara County toward launching the CJVP there. Participate in planning a community jail visiting program, as described above. Participate in delineation of needs for documentary information about our local jails and the drafting and submission of FOIL requests, working with other organizations that have been FOILING the Office of the Sheriff, such as PPG and the NNJ campaign, and experts in this process, such as Nan Haynes Assist Jerome Wright in his work with the ECCSAB by attending meetings (as an observer) and assisting with preparatory and follow-up work.

Incarceration in our jails is frequent, destructive, degrading, and sometimes deadly. It is also inequitably inflicted, with a disproportionate impact on communities of color and people of low and modest income. Reduction in the negative impacts, through jail reforms and ultimately moves toward decarceration, will have a large positive effect on the groups of city residents now most affected. **Likely need access to a personal vehicle.**

Jericho Road Community Health Center

184 Barton Street, Buffalo, NY 14213 | <https://jrchc.org/>

About: We care for our communities and advocate for systemic health equity in order to demonstrate the unconditional love of Jesus. Our vision is for individuals, families, and communities to become healthy and whole.

Project: “Research and Creative Support for Advocacy Department”

There is a lot going on at JRCHC and we would like to know which aspects of our work are most interesting to the Fellow. Perhaps the Fellow is interested in our asylum seeker shelter (largest in the nation), our doula program, our wholistic approach in addressing social determinants of health, or our advocacy work around poverty and racial justice. In general, we need support in researching certain topics around our advocacy agenda. In conjunction with this research, we would love if this fellow is able to create some social media posts focusing on advocacy around those topics. Topics range from access to healthcare to immigration. The HR fellow would be in a supportive role to our director of advocacy as advocacy at JRCHC takes many forms and mediums. To better understand the issues our patients and clients face, the fellow would also have the opportunity to shadow and interview certain staff members and patients. Final work products could be social media toolkits around certain issues, blog post(s), issue overviews, advocacy strategy plans, etc. We are certainly open to any ideas or skills the fellow has and can tailor their time with us to their goals and abilities. In acting as a support for our advocacy department, the fellow will be directly contributing to JRCHC’s efforts to break down barriers and seek equity for some of Buffalo’s most vulnerable residents. We work to make our clinic, programs, and advocacy patient/client centered and lead (when possible, appropriate).

Jewish Family Services

70 Barker St, Buffalo, NY 14209 | <https://jfswny.org/>

About: JFS of Western New York empowers people to achieve their unique aspirations by offering culturally responsive and individualized care. Since 1862, Jewish Family Services of Western New York has been providing all members of our community with critical health and human services, regardless of religion, ethnicity, cultural background, gender identification, ability, or age.

Project: “Maximizing Efficiencies in Refugee Resettlement”

The fellow will spend his/her time shadowing/supporting the work of the refugee resettlement program to identify current strengths and weaknesses within the program and provide recommendations for how to best improve time efficiencies within current systems and structures. The Fellow will produce a report highlighting recommended changes to operations within the refugee resettlement team to maximize efficiency. Refugees are one of the most marginalized populations in Buffalo. English Language Learners rank below all other learners when it comes to school outcomes in Buffalo Public Schools, and many if not most refugee families and individuals live with long-term effects of complicated trauma. By helping to maximize efficiencies in how refugee resettlement is done, we will be able to serve more people in a more myriad of ways. *Cross-cultural communication skills are a plus. Working with interpreters will likely be a part of the role. No language requirements, but additional language skills common across the Buffalo refugee community (such as Arabic, Burmese, Swahili, Dari) are a plus.*

Justice For Migrant Families

371 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY 14202 | <https://www.justiceformigrantfamilies.org/>

About: JFMF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that promotes justice for migrant families by providing support to individuals in the federal detention facility in Batavia, information and resources to families in the community, and advocacy both within and beyond the local community.

Project: “Migrant Accompaniment Fellowship”

The fellow would participate in accompanying folks to various activities around Buffalo including immigration court, ICE check ins, social services appointments, and DMV appointments. They would also meet folks who are recently released from incarceration by ICE at the Buffalo bus station and make sure they have what they need to get home safely. They will work in our office supporting folks with *pro se* filings of immigration forms or organizing our written materials in various languages.

This work serves primarily undocumented people and people seeking asylum in the US, a group that is typically left out of funded services, often including those offered by larger refugee serving agencies. This work is crucial to Buffalo becoming a more welcoming place for folks to arrive and to feel like they are held and supported in community, whether or not they have particular pieces of paper. **Likely need access to a personal vehicle. Prefer applicants to have working proficiency in at least one language in addition to English **

Locust Street Art

138 Locust St, Buffalo, NY 14204 | <https://www.locuststreetart.org/>

About: Locust Street Art provides free or low-cost art classes on a consistent basis for any individual, especially youth, low-income and minority individuals from age 4 to senior adult, to seriously develop the talent and skills necessary to excel in the visual arts.

Project: “Capital Campaign Funding and Sponsorships”

We are currently seeking funds for a capital campaign that will make our building more accessible. This involves building a ramp, expanding the bathroom floor plan and eventually installing an elevator. We are halfway funded for our first phase of this plan. However, the work we seek assistance on will be beneficial beyond this campaign. I would like the intern to help with archival story keeping along with helping to produce ask letters and other fundraising materials. We are looking to strengthen the connection between our current establishment, the past when we were known as MollyOlga, and what our future may be. We are collecting histories as our founders are still alive to connect our current work to the heart of their mission as well and strengthen our relationship to the community. *Video/photography skills would be highly valuable.*

Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center

825 Depot Ave W, Niagara Falls, NY 14305 | <https://www.niagarafallsundergroundrailroad.org/>

About: Our mission is to reveal authentic stories of Underground Railroad freedom seekers and abolitionists in Niagara Falls that inspire visitors to recognize modern injustices that stem from slavery and take action toward an equitable society. Our vision is to be at the forefront of Underground Railroad interpretation by encouraging visitors to take action for civil and human rights and creating global change that begins in the Niagara Falls community.

Project: “Perceptions of Resistance: Assessing Freedom Seeker's Geography, Relationships, and Activism on the Borderland of Freedom”

The fellow will be asked to complete a historical research project focusing on the movement and lives of freedom seekers in Western New York. This project is in collaboration with the Heritage Center's foundational research initiatives, as well as the campaign for the establishment of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Corridor across New York State. Upon the completion of the fellow's project, their research will be shared with the WNY representatives for the Steering Committee of the corridor to be used in their considerations for the route of the corridor/identification of potential signage needs. The fellow's final work product will take the form of an appendix of all research progress completed. This work will further the Heritage Center's mission to address modern injustices that stem from slavery by continuing to interpret the past through a more equitable lens that gives everyone a seat at the table. This directly contribute to economic growth by supporting the advancements of cultural-heritage corridors in WNY that provide opportunities to groups that historically have been denied.
Fellow would likely need access to a personal vehicle.

Office of NYS Assemblymember Jon Rivera

65 Grant St, Buffalo, NY 14213 | <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Jonathan-Rivera>

About: Represent and serve New York State's 149th Assembly District, representing parts of the cities of Buffalo and Lackawanna, the town of Hamburg including the villages of Blasdell and Hamburg, and the hamlet of Lake View.

Project: The nature of our office is that we respond to the needs of our constituents. Our project will likely be finalized/developed closer to the beginning of the fellowship. It will involve research, speaking with constituents, likely drafting policy memos, etc.

Open Buffalo

1327 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14208 | <https://openbuffalo.org/>

About: Our mission is to advance racial, economic, and ecological justice. We do so through skill building, network connecting, and activating leadership opportunities. Our goal is for all communities in Western New York to thrive free from discrimination and poverty. At Open Buffalo, we believe our role is to create an empowered democratic society by training individuals in how to identify problems and create solutions in public policy and public systems. We accomplish this through two categories of programming: Leadership Development and Advocacy & Organizing.

Project: “Race, Power, and Privilege and Cynthia Wiggins--40 Years Later”

Our Race, Power, and Privilege Program strengthens local businesses and institutions who are seeking to be drivers of community progress. RPP is an anti-racism assessment and training program specifically designed to provide our clients an in-depth functional understanding of the history of race and institutionalized racism. Our organizations who go through the process develop tools for dismantling internal and external racial oppression. Led by our Director of Racial Equity and Justice, RPP is holding a special event in July 2025 commemorating the life and lessons learned from the tragic death and case of Cynthia Wiggins. The "Cynthia Wiggins--40 Years Later" event will be part of Open Buffalo's 10 year anniversary series "OBX" which will include workshops, seminars, and various other events throughout the year. The intern will be assigned specific research and event planning duties leading up to the event. In addition, the intern will work exclusively on the "RPP Consortium," which is a database of organizations (their participating employees, staff, and board) which completed the RPP process. The intern will be directly responsible for the compilation, organization, and outreach to participating members of the consortium. In essence, the intern will highlight their participation in creating and executing the Cynthia Wiggins event, as well as an overview of the vast work compiled with the "RPP Consortium" project. Open Buffalo recognizes how systemic oppression infects all areas of society. Thus, RPP training is relevant to the development of an anti-racist framework, through an intentional interrogation of how power and privilege operate in society. This framework may be utilized by individuals and organizations alike. If possible, the intern may accompany me to witness and actual RPP training to see how this Open Buffalo moves the needle, helping organizations in Buffalo to become champions of Anti-racist work. *Exceptional writing skills to produce the comprehensive report and the capability to communicate effectively with a diverse group of stakeholders. Prior experience working with communities, especially in an engagement or advocacy role.*



Partnership for the Public Good

617 Main Street, Suite 300 Buffalo, NY 14203 | www.ppgbuffalo.org

About: Partnership for the Public Good (PPG) is a community-based think tank that builds a more just, sustainable, and culturally vibrant Buffalo Niagara through action-oriented research, policy development, and citizen engagement. Since 2007, PPG and our partners have made lasting, positive changes in our community on issues ranging from economic development and education to health equity and police reform. PPG unites 340 partner organizations: a diverse array including nonprofit agencies, block clubs, labor unions, faith groups, environmental organizations, social justice advocacy groups, museums, and more.

Project: Stories of Social Change: Community Voices and Victories for the Public Good

Each year, more than one hundred community advocates, social workers, lawyers, and researchers come together to set our collective priorities for policy change. They pitch, debate, and vote for our annual Community Agenda: ten priorities for city, county, and state policy change that drives PPG's work with our partners throughout the year ahead to better our community. Advocates bring to our Community Agenda some of the region's most pressing, urgent, and ingrained challenges, including but not limited to our lack of healthy housing, human rights violations in county jails, and our chronically underfunded childcare system. And yet, we start each year with a renewed sense of our collective power and our shared vision for

a better Buffalo Niagara. Our partners know what will make our region more just, equitable, sustainable, and culturally vibrant, and we will help them win.

In 16 years, PPG has won over 40 policy changes in our region and in New York State. Because we spend our time doing research, meeting with elected officials, and supporting urgent community campaigns, we don't always have the time to document our social change and policy wins. With this project, we seek to capture and tell the stories of the people who lead this critical community change. We would like our 2024 High Road Fellow to help with this by interviewing partners and working on video-based web and social media content. The High Road Fellow will work closely with Deija James, our Policy Advancement and Media Manager, to co-host and co-produce several special episodes of our weekly radio show and podcast. These shows will dive deeply into the stories of community leaders who have won policy changes or begun social change movements in recent years – What did they do that worked? What led them to advocacy? How did they recruit others to join their efforts? How have they utilized unconventional mediums and creativity to advance their objectives? What lessons can other public policy campaigns learn from their work?

The High Road Fellow can also select 1-2 of our recent policy wins to create multimedia toolkits or “explainer” videos that educate our broad audience on what these policy changes will mean in practice. Possible topics include winning new funding and support for young people after they age out of foster care in Buffalo; winning a new jail transparency program that allows clergy to visit Erie County jails to monitor conditions and practices; or winning a new county-wide Language Access law requiring all public-facing county departments to offer interpretation and to translate essential documents into our region's top six languages. These are three recent examples of policy wins; if the Fellow is interested in another area of our work, we can explore that too. PPG will provide video and audio recording equipment for the Fellow to use.

Preservation Buffalo Niagara

617 Main St #201, Buffalo, NY 14202 | <https://preservationbuffaloniagara.org/>

About: Preservation Buffalo Niagara is the region's only full-service, professionally staffed preservation organization, empowering Western New York communities to champion historic preservation as a means of creating a more culturally rich, vibrant, affordable, and sustainable community.

Project: “A Deep Dive on Green Book Sites Throughout WNY

WNY is filled with sites that were once "Green book" sites where black travelers could find safe hotels, food, night clubs, tourist needs, grocery stores and other travel needs. Due to redlining and demolition of Buffalo's East Side, of the hundreds of green book sites that existed - we have 16 left still standing. In Niagara Falls, we have very little knowledge and would like to understand that area and the buildings better. We are looking for a High Rhodes Scholar that will analyze the green book sites in Buffalo and Niagara Falls so we can research, map and get them on a list to protect and celebrate them. If there is time, we could identify next steps on their current condition and / or what preservation goals we have to ensure their future. The goal would be to present both the City of Niagara Falls and City of Buffalo with this important historic information so they can prioritize the renovation and restoration of these historic sites instead of demolition AND raise community awareness around such an important piece of history.

<https://savingplaces.org/green-book-sites>

Say Yes to Education/ Breaking Barriers

1166 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14208 | <https://sayyesbuffalo.org/boys-men-of-color-initiative/>

About: The mission of the Say Yes Buffalo partnership is to remove barriers to educational attainment, workforce participation and economic mobility for students in public and charter schools in Buffalo, NY. Our collective impact partnership, centered on racial equity and inclusion, provides a postsecondary tuition promise and cradle to career comprehensive supports to increase the rates of high school and postsecondary completion and the achievement of fulfilling professional employment. The Boys & Men of Color Initiative at Say Yes Buffalo includes working extensively with young males of color through our Breaking Barriers Youth Leadership Council. Breaking Barriers Youth Leadership Council is a group of young men of color, 12-24 years in age, creating a unified voice that advocates for racial equity, social justice and policy change. The Council will address the practices and systems that hold back males of color. Through civic leadership training and direct lobbying opportunities, Breaking Barriers participants will learn the importance of advocacy and will develop their personal and collective leadership skills to be able to influence positive change, strengthening and improving life outcomes for boys and young men of color.

Project: “Boys and Men of Color Initiative: Amplifying Youth Voice through a Policy Advocacy Agenda”

The project aims to empower boys and young men of color in the greater Buffalo area, ages 12-24, by developing a comprehensive policy agenda for the 2025-2026 school year and updating our organization’s community service resource list. Key components of the project will include: Researching and analyzing relevant policies that affect boys and men of color in the greater Buffalo community. Facilitating discussions within the Breaking Barriers Youth Leadership Council (BBYLC) to gather insights and feedback from members about which issues are most significant and relevant to them. Drafting a 2025-2026 policy agenda document to guide the work of the BBYLC in the upcoming program year. Creating brief lessons for our young men on city, county, state, and federal government structures, including leadership roles, current elected officials, advocacy pathways, and the legislative process. Updating and expanding our organization’s community resource guide. This guide lists essential local services that support our youth, including resources for housing, transportation, food, clothing, medical care, and mental/behavioral health services. It is utilized by our School-Based Services case workers, Community Schools Navigators, Youth Workforce Development Success Coaches, and the Boys and Men of Color (BMoC) team to connect youth with the resources they need for their well-being. Our current reference guide is outdated and needs to be refreshed. This project is closely related to the policy agenda work, as a comprehensive understanding of local service providers will inform our policy priorities and empower youth to identify potential partners and allies.

Central to our efforts is the Breaking Barriers Youth Leadership Council (BBYLC), which engages young men of color in an intensive year-long youth mentorship and empowerment curriculum. Our robust, 30-unit curriculum focuses on cultivating personal growth and leadership skills, while elevating youth voices to advocate for social justice, racial equity, and policy change. This project will contribute to a more equitable Buffalo by actively involving boys and young men of color in the policy-making process, ensuring their voices and experiences are recognized in decisions that affect their lives. The initiative fosters civic engagement and encourages greater participation in local governance. Additionally, the community resource guide will enhance access to vital services, bridging gaps that may hinder the health, well-being, and educational attainment of Buffalo Public School students. Collectively, these efforts aim to create a more inclusive environment where boys and young men of color can thrive, contributing to a stronger, more equitable community for all residents of Buffalo.



Shared Mobility, Inc./ Reddy Bikeshare

640 Ellicott Street #441 Buffalo, NY 14203 | <https://www.sharedmobility.org/>

About We believe that affordable, accessible, and equitable mobility is a Human right. We strive everyday to help build innovative shared transportation programs with local partners across the country that help uplift the communities they serve. We provide low cost and robust self-service access to bikes and e-bikes in WNY

Project “Bringing Low-Cost Bikeshare to Underserved Communities”

Reddy Bikeshare got started in 2016, and in partnership with Independent Health and support from other partners, we're expanding our network to underserved communities in need of low-cost access to bikes and e-bikes. In addition to expanding our footprint of stations, we're trying to increase enrollment of discounted passes targeting these communities: East Side Forward Pass and Niagara Falls Resident Pass. The High Road Fellow will help the communications team at engagement events, instruct how bikeshare works to community members, help with helmet giveaways and PSAs on social media.

Our goal is to see double the bikeshare trips on Buffalo's east side of Buffalo and a doubling of East Side Forward member roll in 2025. The Niagara Falls program is much more mature, and we hope to see a 20% growth in that program. *Fellows interested in this opportunity are preferably someone who is savvy with photo and video/audio editing software. We use Canva a lot. We would like to lean into more video this year for instructional videos.*

Stitch Buffalo

284 Plymouth Ave, Buffalo, NY 14213 | <https://www.stitchbuffalo.org/>

About: Stitch Buffalo is a textile art center committed to empowering refugee and immigrant women through the sale of their handcrafted goods, inspiring creativity and inclusion through community education, and stewarding the environment through the re-use of textile supplies.

Project: “Stitch Buffalo: Commercial Sewing Program Development”

The Commercial/Industrial Sewing Program at Stitch Buffalo aims to create economic empowerment pathways for refugee and immigrant women in Buffalo. The Fellow will collaborate with Stitch Buffalo staff to conduct research, build partnerships with local designers, outline curriculum frameworks, and design program logistics for a program to be based at Stitch Buffalo. Goals for the Project: Develop a curriculum for commercial and industrial sewing skills, adapted to the needs of beginner and intermediate sewists. Complete research to provide insights on best practices and workplace safety/equity for women participating in training, as well as for those progressing to work in the Stitch Buffalo commercial sewing facility. Design an operational plan that includes participant recruitment, program milestones, and assessment tools. Prepare a business plan for the commercial/industrial sewing program that meets both the mission objectives and financial goals of Stitch Buffalo.

This project is part of Stitch Buffalo's broader mission to address social inequities for refugees and immigrants through skills training and economic opportunity. This will help bridge economic divides by providing accessible, in-demand skills training to women who face significant barriers to traditional employment. By equipping refugee and immigrant women with commercial and industrial sewing skills, and a safe workplace in which to use those skills, this program aligns with regional workforce development needs while enhancing personal agency and financial independence among marginalized groups. In the long term, this program aims to support participants in achieving economic self-sufficiency and contributing meaningfully to Buffalo's economy, while accommodating the unique needs of refugee women (such as a flexible schedule, breaks to pray, a women-only workspace, etc.). *It would be ideal if the Fellow has a special interest in gender studies or refugee issues.*

The Buffalo Immigrant Leadership Team (BILT)

371 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY 14202 | <https://biltbuffalo.org/>

About: BILT builds a strong, healthy refugee and immigrant community in and around Buffalo, NY by developing powerful leaders of faith and moral courage to address the educational, social, economic and political needs of the community.

Project: “Placement of Newcomer Students in the Buffalo Public Schools”

Since the establishment of The Buffalo Immigrant Leadership Team (BILT), we have worked to improve access to equitable education for English Language Learners (ELLs). Our goals: Understanding ELL students’ grade-level and school placement in the Buffalo District. Learning the intersectionality of Limited Language Proficiency and Special Education placement.

The fellow will do research and conduct interviews or do one on one meetings with community members, teachers, and departments involved to get the information needed. The final product will be a report of the findings pertaining the goals of the project. Over the past two decades, Buffalo has become home to many immigrants and refugees. Access to equitable education is vital for economic upward mobility. ELL students must be equitably supported to reach their full potential, which will benefit the socioeconomic status not only of the individual, but also of the city.

UB Center for Urban Studies

3435 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14214 | <https://centerforurbanstudies.ap.buffalo.edu/>

About: Produce research studies that shed light on problems of neighborhood underdevelopment and health inequities and to develop and test innovative solutions to these challenges

Project: “East Neighborhood Development”

The fellow will work on an East Neighborhood Development project and participate in the work at Frida’s Rebel Garden in the Fruit Belt. Frida’s Rebel Garden is a block long neighborhood park-garden maintained by the UB Center for Urban Studies. This work is part of our ongoing effort to transform the East Side. The final product will be a 10 page report reflecting on their experience and what they learned about Black Buffalo. Our work focuses on developing models and insights into the challenges facing underdeveloped neighborhoods and communities and gaining insight into the building of a just city.

West Side Community Services

161 Vermont St, Buffalo, NY 14213 | <http://wscsbuffalo.org/>

About: WSCS was founded in 1975 by a group of dedicated and thoughtful West Side residents who came together to discuss concerns about their neighborhood—housing, drug and alcohol use, and crime—and to develop programs that would positively impact the West Side community. WSCS continues to realize its mission of fostering the stability, security, and well-being of our vibrant and dynamic community by engaging, connecting, and supporting its residents. With a strong focus on health and wellness guided by the values of innovation, co-creation, empathy, belonging, inclusion, and impact, WSCS offers services rooted in education, food security, substance use prevention, and socialization that enhance the quality of life for all.

Project: “Researching and reimagining the role of community centers in Buffalo and beyond”

We have two potential projects for our fellow. PROJECT A: The fellow will produce a two-part report that will help West Side Community Services make decisions about future programming/services. Part one of the report will detail how community centers in Buffalo and in communities of similar size/economics/demographics are serving their neighborhoods. This part will explore the similarities and differences in programs and services offered by Buffalo-based centers and centers in other similar cities, with an eye toward discovering creative approaches to holistic support AND gaps in services in Buffalo (especially the West Side). Part of this section may also include common challenges/barriers faced by other community centers and how they address them. Part two of the report will summarize responses from West Side community members regarding their service and program suggestions for West Side Community Services. PROJECT B: The fellow will build and implement a membership database for our senior program. The database will allow us to move away from paper registration forms and sign-in sheets and make reporting faster/easier. Implementation will include creating a user guide for staff and training staff and members on how to use the database. Ultimately, the fellow’s work will contribute to a more equitable Buffalo by leading WSCS to fill service gaps and develop programming/services desired by the immediate neighborhood.

Western New York Books Arts Center

468 Washington St, Buffalo, NY 14203 | <https://wnybookarts.org/>

About: Preserving the book arts through collaboration and innovation. The Western New York Book Arts Center promotes greater understanding of printing and book-related arts through education, creation, and exhibition for a broad and diverse community.

Project: “Printing Partners Education Program”

The Western New York Book Arts Center seeks a fellow to work as a Fellow for our signature educational outreach program, Printing Partners. For over 10 years, Printing Partners has worked with underserved communities throughout the Buffalo area to offer high-quality hands-on creative arts classes in bookmaking and printmaking for a range of skill levels and age groups. The Fellow will work under the guidance of a Book Arts Master Teaching Artist and assist in curriculum development, material preparation, hands-on in person instruction. Additionally, the Fellow will help plan and organize two summer events, Zine Fest and Book Fest. Zine Fest is dedicated to Zine making and culture and will include exhibitions, workshops, and events. Book Fest, celebrating all things print, will include exhibitions that will culminate in a one-day event celebrating printing and book making. Printing Partners students mirror Buffalo’s rich cultural diversity, representing its extensive Black, Latinx and Indigenous populations as well as recently resettled refugees from Burma, Bhutan, Congo, Iraq, and Somalia.



WNY Law Center, Project 1

37 Franklin Street, 2nd floor Buffalo, NY 14202 | www.wnylc.net

About: The WNY Law Center is a nonprofit legal services organization of legal professionals representing low-income people in a full range of civil matters. We engage in direct representation of homeowners facing foreclosure as well as advocacy and education in fair lending, consumer debt issues, preserving housing, and passing on generational wealth. The mission of the Western New York Law Center is to ensure that all members of our community receive the full range of civil legal services including "non-traditional" legal assistance like policy advocacy and legal education. Our mission is to promote human and civil rights guided by an overarching commitment to racial and economic justice.

Project: "End Debtors Prisons in New York"

The fellow would analyze court and law enforcement records, and potentially monitor court proceedings and interview consumer debt defendants, to evaluate the impact of New York's current regime of issuing warrants of arrest for judgment debtors who do not answer post-judgment discovery on low-income communities and communities of color in Western New York. Under New York's current "warrant of commitment" process, defendants in consumer debt lawsuits who have had a judgment entered against them can be sent a lengthy questionnaire seeking very private information and/or can be noticed to appear and testify at the plaintiff's lawyer's office or at court. The failure to respond and/or appear can result in a warrant of arrest being issued. Many arrests occur because consumers do not actually receive the materials or if they do receive them, they do not understand the consequences of not responding, do not understand how to respond, etc. Many arrests happen currently due to either lack of notice or the excessive burden of responding. The research project would help supporters of the bill justify these reforms. The fellow would produce a written report that summarizes the data and information collected, analyzes it, and reports the conclusion of the analysis, specifically looking at the zip codes of the defendants who are arrested or for whom warrants are issued, together with the results of interviews and any courtroom monitoring. Consumer debt default judgments disproportionately impact low-income communities and communities of color. A study conducted in 2013 by the New Economy Project found this to be the case specifically in Buffalo and other New York metropolitan areas. The warrant of commitment procedure is the most severe impact that consumer debt default judgments can have on members of these communities. Remedying the procedure so that defendants are not pointlessly arrested and held in jail when they cannot afford to pay judgments and may not even have any assets or income subject to the judgments would somewhat remedy this inequitable system by removing or at least reducing the frequency of its most severe impact.



WNY Law Center, Project 2

37 Franklin Street, 2nd floor Buffalo, NY 14202 | www.wnylc.net

About: The WNY Law Center is a nonprofit legal services organization of legal professionals representing low-income people in a full range of civil matters. We engage in direct representation of homeowners facing foreclosure as well as advocacy and education in fair lending, consumer debt issues, preserving housing, and passing on generational wealth. The mission of the Western New York Law Center is to ensure that all members of our community receive the full range of civil legal services including "non-traditional" legal assistance like policy

advocacy and legal education. Our mission is to promote human and civil rights guided by an overarching commitment to racial and economic justice.

Project: “Buffalo East Homeowner Assistance Fund Program Analysis”

The WNY Law Center is applying for a High Road Scholar to do an impact study on our Buffalo East Homeowner Assistance Fund Program (BEHAF). As one of the poorest, most racially segregated cities in the US, generational wealth is often rooted in home ownership, making the protection and transfer of this wealth crucial for maintaining family stability and prosperity. Recognizing this, and as a direct response to the May 14th terrorist attack at the Tops on Jefferson, the Governor's office launched the BEHAF program. Beginning August 8th, \$15 million dollars was set aside to assist homeowners with foreclosable liens if they lived in one of the 9 zip codes located on the East Side of Buffalo. The Law Center helped approximately 3,295 homeowners obtain funds to pay off property taxes, sewer fees, user fees, and back water bills. For this project, the High Road Fellow will analyze how BEHAF funds were used to keep people in their homes. They will look at what proportion of funds were used to pay City taxes, County taxes, sewer fees, user fees, or water bills. They will determine how many foreclosures were prevented and how many people are still living in their homes. Some other areas of research include comparing the City of Buffalo water default numbers with the County at large. The Scholar will compare City water bills with water bills in neighboring suburbs, such as Cheektowaga, Depew, and West Seneca, to see if Buffalo water bills are significantly higher. Additionally, they will do a tax comparison study to see how many homes were saved from the County auction. They will review the auction lists for owner occupied properties on the county in rem list for 2021-2024, seeing if there was a reduction of owner-occupied properties that went to auction in the BEHAF-eligible area. The Fellow will use the Building Blocks software to prepare diagrams and charts presenting the data

Workers United Upstate NY & VT

2495 Main Street, Tri Main Building, Suite 556, Buffalo, NY 14214 | <https://workersunitedupstate.org/>

About: No shop is too small and no voice is too quiet to be heard. We will devote our time, energy, resources necessary to educate, advocate, and support our members.

About: “Organizing Internship”

The organizing intern will participate in an ongoing campaign, engaging with worker leaders and assisting the organizing committee and lead organizer in having organizing conversations, drafting leaflets, coordinating and assisting with bargaining, and other duties as needed. The goals are to give the intern an uplifting and insightful experience of a new organizing campaign while giving them the opportunity to assist non-union workers build power in their workplace. The organizing intern will assist with the strategic research the campaign requires, including drafting a report to the organizers and committee encompassing various leverage points and how the campaign can win the right to organize. This work will contribute to a more equitable Buffalo by supporting Buffalo workers who are democratizing their workplace. *Ability to use Canva and Adobe Illustrator and video editing experience helpful but not required.*

DEMOCRACY SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

Democracy Summer is designed for ILR undergraduate students interested in enhancing democracy through public service. Democracy Summer provides insight on the issues and access to leaders who are addressing major challenges *through government*. It provides a strong grounding in critical thinking, group dynamics, and problem solving. This summer, Democracy Fellows are considered High Road Fellows but their individual projects are coordinated with a specific public official instead of a not-for-profit organization.

One example of a potential Democracy Summer project this summer is to work with a local elected official and coalition on the Frontline Arts Organizations Sustainability Fund. We anticipate being at the implementation phase of the Frontline Arts Organizations Sustainability Fund, which is a \$2.5M seed fund allocation in the City of Buffalo's federal stimulus funding package for frontline arts organizations and artists. Frontline Arts Buffalo (FAB) was closely involved in seeing that fund proposal through, and we are hoping to use this 3 year spend-down fund as a pilot towards showing the need for the city to invest significantly in the arts and cultural sector. The High Road Fellow will assist with developing evaluation methods and measures that we can use to track impact, and leverage grantmaking in storytelling for us to build momentum around the work.



This painting, titled "Regrowth" (acrylic on paper) was created by Lizzie Taber (High Road '21) for the High Road Showcase.

The engine represents Buffalo's position as a rust belt city and Lizzie's placement with Citizens for Regional Transit. The sky represents the growth and potential Buffalo has.

The 22 Native New York plants associated with spring and early summer represent the 22 High Road Fellows and healthy, sustainable growth.

