



NEWS RELEASE

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University Settlement selected as host for ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship program

New York, NY – University Settlement has been selected as a host partner for the 2023 American Council of Learned Societies Leading Edge Fellowship program, the nation's first Settlement House announced today. Twenty-two nonprofit organizations were selected as hosts for these two-year fellowships, which pair recent PhDs in the humanities and interpretive social sciences with social justice organizations to advance initiatives including campaigns for voting rights, equal access to education, housing justice, and more. This program is made possible by funding from The Mellon Foundation.

With the ACLS's support, University Settlement will hire a Program Integration Specialist into its LEARN (Longevity through Education, Art, Recreation and Nutrition) program to support the delivery of high quality and innovative services to adults over 60. The fellow will work closely with LEARN leadership to deepen the connections between each program serving adults over 60, while facilitating professional development opportunities for program staff at all levels. They will also partner closely with University Settlement's Director of Data, Evaluation, and Learning to improve participant assessment and data collection in service of building a robust culture of excellence and data-driven decision-making, working to change the narrative around getting older from a deficit focus to one that celebrates aging.

Formed in 1919, the [American Council of Learned Societies \(ACLS\)](#) is a nonprofit federation of 79 scholarly organizations. As the preeminent representative of American scholarship in the humanities and interpretive social sciences, ACLS holds a core belief that knowledge is a public good. As such, ACLS strives to promote the circulation of humanistic knowledge throughout society. ACLS is currently [accepting applications](#) for these positions via their online application system, with a deadline of March 15, 2023 at 9:00pm EDT.

"In 2020, ACLS funding empowered our agency to hire an Advocacy Director, an investment in our capacity that continues to pay significant dividends," said **Melissa Aase, CEO of University Settlement**. "We're grateful to the ACLS for their continued strategic support of our work."

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About University Settlement

University Settlement forges partnerships between neighbors on the Lower East Side and in Brooklyn, engaging more than 40,000 New Yorkers in efforts to build stronger communities every year.

Established in 1886 as the first Settlement House in the United States, we bring the values of that movement into the 21st century by fighting poverty and systemic inequality with responsive programs and advocacy; engaging all members of the community from newborns to elders; and joyfully nurturing the whole person by addressing basic needs including food, education, culture, learning, and community.

We infuse a commitment to civic engagement, equity, and communal action into each of our programs, which include early childhood education, mental health and wellness, benefits assistance and eviction prevention, adult literacy and education, healthy aging, community and recreation centers, performing and visual arts, and youth development.

Learn more at www.universitysettlement.org.