

A SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM FOR YOUNG CIVIC ENGAGEMENT LEADERS

INTRODUCTION

The program is a unique exchange that offers NGO professionals from China, Hong Kong, Mongolia, and Taiwan the opportunity to gain a hands-on understanding of the American nonprofit sector.

The formal program will begin with a series of virtual professional development workshops, followed by a one-day pre-departure orientation in Beijing, Hong Kong, Ulaanbaatar, or Taipei. After traveling to the United States and attending a program orientation in Washington, D.C., fellows will undertake the main program component: a four-week independent placement with an American organization in their field of work. In partnership with staff at the host nonprofit, fellows will participate in the overall work of the organization, including shadowing staff members, participating in meetings, and engaging in the host organization's day-to-day work. At the conclusion of the fellowship period, participants will attend a three-day wrap-up and evaluation program in the San Francisco Bay Area. Back in their home countries/territories, fellows will implement an individual project of their own design. A group of American professionals from the host organizations will travel to China, Hong Kong, Mongolia, or Taiwan to complete the exchange during the second half of 2024.

Each participant in this program will be responsible for implementing an independent project of his/her own design. The projects must be built upon, or informed by, what they have learned during the program. After returning to their home countries/territories, fellows will meet reporting deadlines for completing the project. Individual projects could be a research paper, a new program or way of working at the fellow's organization, a series of lectures delivered to relevant organizations upon returning to the home country/territory, or something else that is a good fit for the fellow's work. We are looking for relevant, creative, and feasible proposals. A clear, detailed project description is an essential part of the application.

Please note: the intention is for the Special Professional Fellows Program for Young Civic Engagement Leaders to be offered as a hybrid program with virtual activities leading up to a U.S.-based exchange. The in-person, U.S.-based exchange is, however, contingent upon favorable travel conditions. In the event there are travel restrictions, or others factors which could adversely impact the health, safety, and welfare of program participants, host organizations, and local communities, the program may be postponed or pivot to entirely virtual programming. We will follow prevailing national and local public health guidance when making programmatic decisions.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

January-February 2024

Virtual Engagement

- Professional development workshops
- Team building

February 2024

Pre-departure Orientation, Beijing/Hong Kong/ Ulaanbaatar/Taipei

- Travel logistics
- Program expectations

March 6-9, 2024

Orientation in Washington, D.C.

- Introduction to the American nonprofit sector
- Program orientation
- Team building

March 11-April 5, 2024

Fellowship Placement

- Experience first-hand how U.S. nonprofit organizations operate; exchange insights and best practices with American colleagues

April 6-9, 2024

Wrap-up/evaluation in San Francisco Bay Area

- Program evaluation
- Conflict management/cross cultural communication training

Individual Project

- Upon returning home, implement an individual project based on and informed by the fellowship experience

APPLICANT CRITERIA

- Emerging leaders from the NGO sector **25-40 years of age** who work in the fields of **environmental sustainability, philanthropy, legal aid, or community building**. Outstanding applicants from other fields will also be considered. A limited number of slots for academics or government officials may be available
- **Demonstrated proficiency in written and oral English** (able to live and work independently in the United States)
- **Genuine commitment to developing and implementing an independent project in home country/territory** after the conclusion of the fellowship portion of the program
- **Demonstrated professional excellence**
- **Independent and self-directed, able to complete an independent 5-6 week fellowship**
- **Limited previous experience in the United States preferred**

The National Committee on United States-China Relations will work with participants to obtain visas and make all travel and lodging arrangements. Lodging during the fellowship period will be in homestays whenever possible. All costs for participation in the program will be covered.

Application Deadline: November 15, 2023.

**[THE SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM](#) IS FUNDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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