

With funding from the Kresge Foundation, Transportation for America (T4America)—a program of Smart Growth America (SGA)—announces the creation of the new yearlong Arts, Culture, and Transportation (ACT) Fellowship. T4America will select between 10 and 15 professionals who are looking to increase their knowledge of the transportation planning and design process and develop creative placemaking skills to serve as fellows. We are now accepting applications from interested teams of candidates.

Project overview

Selected fellows will join a diverse group of approximately 10-15 working professionals from across the United States including transportation engineers, designers, planners, artists, community organizers, and others working at the intersection of the arts and transportation. Fellows will increase their knowledge of the transportation planning and design process, as well as creative placemaking strategies to further develop their ability to impact transportation projects. Fellows will remain employed by their organizations and agencies during the fellowship.

The ACT fellowship will include an online distance learning component and three in-person convenings (see the tentative schedule on the last page of this document below for dates of in-person convenings). T4America and SGA staff, as well as a team of national experts, will educate fellows on best practices in various areas of transportation, arts, and culture, while fellows will have an opportunity to share their own challenges and learn from one another.

After the fellowship concludes, several graduating fellows will be offered the opportunity to assist with the next round of [T4America's State of the Art \(SOTA\) Transportation Trainings](#) in communities across the country. By serving as consultants on these trainings, participating fellows will have the opportunity to develop new leadership, facilitation, and presentation skills.

Fellowship partners

[T4America](#) envisions a transportation system that safely and affordably connects people of all means and ability to jobs, services, and opportunity. T4America's mission is to change the national focus on transportation from simply moving vehicles to moving people, safely and affordably, to jobs and services—and to organize public policy and spending around this principle.

The fellowship is generously funded by the [Kresge Foundation](#), which defines creative placemaking as an approach to community development and urban planning that integrates arts, culture, and community-engaged design strategies.

T4America's Arts & Culture work

T4America offers a variety of learning opportunities, including webinars, reports and guides, direct technical assistance, and leadership academies. Over the past three years, these learning opportunities have increasingly included an arts and culture component. In February of 2016, T4America released [The Scenic Route: Getting Started with Creative](#)

[Placemaking in Transportation](#), to introduce transportation planners and local leaders to the concept, share successful case studies, and provide guidance to transportation professionals on working with artists. Building on the Scenic Route, T4America published [Arts, Culture and Transportation: A Creative Placemaking Field Scan](#), with support from ArtPlace America in 2017. The Field Scan explores how artists contribute to transportation solutions, identifying seven challenges and seven solutions involving artists.

Simultaneously, T4America launched the Cultural Corridor Consortium with support from the Kresge Foundation. The program supported three cities per year with direct funding, technical assistance, and peer learning opportunities to incorporate artistic practice into transportation projects.

T4America then launched the SOTA Transportation Trainings in partnership with Americans for the Arts (AFTA), which educated transportation professionals on artistic practice and educated arts administrators and artists on transportation planning, while helping both groups collaborate more effectively with one another.

Most recently, T4America launched an artist residency at Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the first-ever artist-in-residence program at a state-level agency, to incorporate artistic practice into WSDOT's project scoping, design, community engagement efforts, and other aspects of their work. A similar program at Minnesota DOT was launched shortly afterward.

The ACT Fellowship builds on each of these projects by leveraging T4America's unique knowledge of creative placemaking in transportation and connections in the transportation and arts worlds to produce a fellowship that supports those already working at the intersection of the arts and transportation to take their work to the next level.

Purpose

The ACT fellowship expands the scope of AFTA and T4America's SOTA Transportation Trainings by adding this yearlong ACT fellowship to help transportation leaders from across the country share creative placemaking practices and challenges with their peers.

While the SOTA Transportation Trainings have helped build connections between local arts agencies and departments of transportation, participants lack a direct connection to peers in other cities. This fellowship aims to solve these challenges by building capacity among fellows to run future technical assistance workshops, thus completing the circle between creative placemaking novices (workshop participants) and experts (the fellows).

Structure of fellowship

T4America will select a total of approximately 10-15 fellows from approximately four cities or towns. Each city or town may submit at least two (four maximum) candidates for the fellowship. Fellows from each community will apply as a team and will represent transportation professionals, artists, and/or community organizers looking to leverage and expand their knowledge of the planning and design process along with creative placemaking strategies to further develop their ability to impact transportation projects. Team members can represent the same profession or any combination. However,

T4America will have a preference for teams with diverse skill sets, for example one artist, one transportation professional, and one community organizer. These professionals will come from community-serving organizations and agencies, where they will remain employed during the duration of the fellowship.

T4America will bring fellows together at least three times over the course of a year—each time in a different city—for multi-day convenings. These meetings will include site visits to relevant projects, skill building, peer sharing and learning, and lectures and interactive workshops from T4America/SGA staff and guest speakers. Since the fellows will come to the convenings with a wide range of skills, they will also participate in leading workshops—those with arts backgrounds helping educate transportation professionals, and vice versa. In addition, there will be a series of three online learning modules that all fellows will participate in.

After the culmination of the yearlong fellowship, T4America will solicit applications from additional communities and select three to receive technical assistance workshops: the SOTA Transportation Trainings. The workshops will offer fellows the opportunity to disseminate the skills they've learned to peers in three communities.

These workshops will focus on training local arts agency staff on the basics of transportation language, processes, funding, etc. while simultaneously training DOT and/or transit agency staff on artistic practice, arts language, funding, etc. to facilitate collaboration on actual projects. The workshops will include separate trainings for arts and transportation staff, as well as joint work sessions. Graduating fellows will serve as the primary workshop consultants so that these individuals develop leadership and presentation skills, and so that the skills developed during the fellowship can be directly taught to new communities.

Why apply?

Fellows will gain the following:

- Peer-learning through a curated fellowship cohort.
- Mentorship from guest speakers, nationally recognized thought leaders in creative placemaking, as well as T4America and SGA staff.
- Opportunities to workshop your projects through hands-on, in-person convenings with peers and national experts (all travel expenses paid for).
- Participate in distance-learning modules that are tailored to your projects' needs and challenges.
- Access to T4America's Arts & Culture network of over 50 local non-profits and governmental organizations working at the intersection of creative placemaking and transportation, as well as SGA's national networks, experts, and resources covering land use, economic development, and Complete Streets policies and implementation.
- Opportunity to have your work featured for T4America's national audience through webinars, blog posts, and other communications platforms.
- Become a leader at the intersection of creative placemaking and transportation! You'll have the chance to apply what you've learned to a current project and practice delivering technical assistance through workshops.

Fellowship expectations

Selected fellows are expected to:

- Participate in three online learning modules with T4America staff and partners.
- Participate in three in-person convenings (one in Washington, DC and two in other cities TBD) with T4America staff and partners. Travel and lodging expenses will be covered by T4America.
- Complete requested assignments or other tasks between online learning modules and in-person convenings.
- Track project expenses and invoice T4America for payment in accordance with T4America's procedures.
- Document the fellowship process through audio, writing, video, or other mediums.
- Assist with development of technical assistance workshop curriculum as requested and serve as a workshop co-leader, if requested by T4America staff.
- Participate in fellowship evaluation and the dissemination of lessons learned during the fellowship.
- Be prepared to present lessons learned and work produced through the fellowship on webinars, conferences, and other convenings as requested by T4America
- Deliver a final presentation to your city's mayor's office, other elected officials, or related municipal staff.

Selection criteria

Fellows must be committed to interdisciplinary collaboration, creating a more equitable city through their work, and deeply engaging with community members on projects. Each fellow must have a demonstrated interest in aligning creative practice with social and public need. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated on the following criteria:

- Artistic merit and/or other professional qualifications demonstrated in a CV and dynamic portfolio of past work.
- Experience working collaboratively with people representing a range of demographics and disciplines.
- Ability to communicate effectively and synthesize complex concepts.
- Exceptional cultural competency and demonstrated ability to constructively work with traditionally underserved communities.
- Current employment with a community-serving organization or agency as a transportation professional, artist, arts administrator, or community organizer with employment maintained for the duration of the ACT fellowship (see full eligibility criteria below).
- Based on the tentative schedule, ability to commit to participating in the ACT fellowship in its entirety, including full participation for the duration of all virtual and in-person events.

Eligibility

Fellows must apply in teams composed of a minimum of two and a maximum of four persons, and must represent the same city or town. The fellows must already be employed within this city or town, in one or more of the following categories:

- community-serving organizations or agencies.
- department of transportation, transit agency, or local equivalent.
- representatives from the local arts agency, arts council, arts commission, or equivalent. (Example: an arts nonprofit that serves in the role commonly filled by a local arts agency.)

Teams may also include local elected officials, or representatives from advocacy organizations, arts and cultural organizations, the department of public works, or other relevant agencies who will also remain employed for the duration of the fellowship.

Artists working in any media are encouraged to apply. Transportation professionals of any background are also encouraged to apply, including planners, engineers, landscape architects, and policy analysts. In addition, applications from community organizers already active in creating change in their local area are welcome to apply. Applicants should be able to attend all scheduled events throughout the ACT fellowship.

Professionals at any career level may apply. It is helpful, but not essential, for artists to have experience with community engagement and collaboration as part of their practice—and for other fellows to have an interest in the arts, including a desire to think outside the box to incorporate creative placemaking to improve transportation. T4America retains the right to use documentation of each fellow's work in promotional materials.

Application form

Answer the following questions on this page with your team:

<http://t4america.org/act-fellowship/apply>

Background information

1. City/town name
2. State
3. City/town population
4. Team member 1: Name (first name and last name)
5. Team member 1: Professional Title
6. Team member 1: Organization name
7. Team member 1: Short biography
8. Team member 1: Organization website
9. Team member 1: Email address
10. Team member 1: Phone number
11. Team member 2: Name (first name and last name)
12. Team member 2: Professional Title
13. Team member 2: Organization name
14. Team member 2: Short biography
15. Team member 2: Organization website
16. Team member 2: Email address
17. Team member 2: Phone number

Questions 18 - 31 are optional, intended only for teams applying with three or four members

18. Team member 3: Name (first name and last name)
19. Team member 3: Professional Title
20. Team member 3: Organization name
21. Team member 3: Short biography
22. Team member 3: Organization website
23. Team member 3: Email address
24. Team member 3: Phone number
25. Team member 4: Name (first name and last name)
26. Team member 4: Professional Title
27. Team member 4: Organization name
28. Team member 4: Short biography
29. Team member 4: Organization website
30. Team member 4: Email address
31. Team member 4: Phone number

Application questions

Answer all questions as a team. In the case that individual questions are asked (as with #2), include each team member's responses in answer as appropriate.

1. Why is your team interested in the ACT fellowship? What does your team hope to learn and accomplish during the fellowship? (300 word limit.)

2. All team members: Each team member, describe your experience working across disciplines and bridging cultural or other differences to produce projects that support public need. (600 word limit.)
3. Describe the specific transportation project/challenge(s) you plan to address through the fellowship (which could include policy decisions, physical changes to transportation infrastructure, creative community engagement for a transportation project, etc.) and the outcomes your team hopes to drive as a result of the fellowship. (300 word limit.)
4. Describe your city/town. Please provide a description of your team's community's population, economy, arts and culture community, and transportation challenges. Please explain how your team's participation in the fellowship will benefit your community. (300 word limit.)
5. What type of support, training, and learning opportunities will you need to ensure that your fellowship experience is successful? *Travel and accommodations for the in-person convenings will be covered by the fellowship. (300 word limit.)
6. What does equity mean to your team? How does your team's professional work reflect to this definition? (300 word limit.)
7. A critical goal of the fellowship is to ensure that the participating communities are able to implement projects and ideas that arise through the fellowship. Please describe existing institutional capacity and any potential programs or funding sources that your team may be able to leverage to implement projects during or after the fellowship. (300 word limit.)
8. Do you foresee any conflicts with meeting the demands of the fellowship or attending any portion of the fellowship events based on the tentative schedule, including the technical assistance workshops in 2020? If so, please outline your limitations. (300 word limit.)
9. Attach a PDF containing each team member's resume and portfolio of work samples, if relevant. **Combine all work samples into a single PDF document**, and label each page with the appropriate team member's name. The portfolio should not exceed 10 pages. Links to video and/or audio files are permitted within the PDF.
 1. File size should not exceed 5MB.
 2. Each image should include a title including the name of the team member responsible for producing the project, the project title, date, location of project, the team member's role in the project and names of collaborators, commissioning agency or client, and project manager's name (if applicable).

Tentative Schedule*

*Dates are subject to change

- March 26, 2019: Call for fellows released.
- May 8, 2019: Fellowship application deadline.
- May 24, 2019: 10-15 fellows selected and notified.
- July 9, 2019: Fellowship commences with first virtual meeting.
- August 6-7, 2019: First fellowship in-person convening (location TBD).
- September 10, 2019: Second fellowship virtual meeting.
- October 22-23, 2019: Second fellowship in-person convening (location TBD).
- December 10, 2019: Third fellowship virtual meeting.
- January 28-29, 2020: Third fellowship in-person convening (location TBD).
- February 2020: Selection of fellows to co-lead workshops, and release of call for proposals for workshops.