Call for APA Housing & Community Development Research Fellow – Race, Equity, + Housing

Housing and Community Development have historically played an integral and critical role in disparate development leading to differential outcomes across communities based on race. As these planning disciplines have contributed to negative outcomes in the past, so too can they be a part of systemic change and social justice as we look toward – and look to create – a more equitable future. While APA HCD members are aware of the histories that have brought us to this current moment, new conversations regarding racial equity, communities that are socially just and housing that is truly fair must become centered in our profession and we must become leaders in enabling continued discussion and providing resources for our membership.

There is a vast and evolving wealth of knowledge that exists on how these histories connect to and manifest in the present, and we believe that aggregating selected and relevant content for our membership will be a beneficial resource for housing and community development practitioners. This is why APA HCD is seeking a Research Fellow who can monitor and aggregate research, analysis, and other forms of content (articles, podcasts, etc.) that will better inform and engage Division membership on ways we can utilize our skills to take actions toward a more racially just future.

The Fellow will stay up to date on evolving content and will work with members of the Executive Committee to post curated links and/or summaries of content to the Division’s Race, Equity, + Housing Resource Page on a weekly basis. This content will be hosted for all planners, including cross-marketing to social media and other Division platforms. This role is crucial to building and maintaining renewed awareness of ways planning practitioners can best serve their communities through equitable decision-making and investment.

If you have an interest in the ways that housing & community development intersect with race, as well as how they can be used as tools to equitably invest in marginalized communities as we move toward justice, please send a letter of interest and resume to the HCD Secretary, Matt Frater, mfrater@msaps.com, by Friday, August 7, 2020.

This position receives a small stipend paid each semester, as well as admission to the APA’s National Conference. All students that are members of the APA Housing & Community Development Division are encouraged to apply. The Executive Committee will review all applications in August and follow-up with applicants before the beginning of the academic year in September. This position will run through the academic year, and can be extended as long as the Fellow maintains their eligibility.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be a full- or part-time student in a field related to Urban Planning, with interest in Housing and/or Community Development; preference will be given to students seeking an advanced degree;
- Applicants must be a student member of the American Planning Association;
- Applicants must be a student member of the Housing and Community Development Division;
- Applicants must be able to commit 4 hours/week to the initiative (approximately 60 hours/semester); and
• Though not required for application, applications submitted with a letter of support from a faculty member from the student’s university will be viewed favorably in the review process. This does not require time commitment from faculty, but the availability to provide guidance, suggestions, or other resources to the student applicant.