

## **Human Rights Fellow**

Artistic Freedom Initiative - New York, NY

Artistic Freedom Initiative (AFI), a New York-based NGO, is seeking a highly-motivated, resourceful, articulate, and socially conscious individual to join our team as a Human Rights Fellow. AFI is comprised of human rights activists, lawyers, academics, and artists working together to promote artistic freedom and peaceful dialogue through art. It was founded on the notion that artists are uniquely situated to positively and powerfully effect change, provided their voices can be heard.

The Human Rights Fellow will report to AFI's Executive Director and Director of Programs and will play a pivotal role in building out a new program focused on human rights advocacy. The primary responsibility of the Human Rights Fellow will be to oversee, co-author and contribute to AFI's annual human rights report on artistic freedom. This fellowship position will provide multiple opportunities for publication. Finally, the fellow will provide some support for AFI's ongoing fundraising efforts and already established programs: Legal Services for At-Risk Artists, Artist Resettlement Assistance, and Artists for Social Change.

This is a one year position, with the possibility to extend further. An ideal candidate would be able to begin in January 2021.

### **Responsibilities**

The Human Rights Fellow is expected to play a key role in development of AFI's human rights report on artistic freedom in Central and Eastern Europe. Responsibilities will include but are not limited to:

- Serving as point person for the coordination and publication of the current report on the state of artistic freedom of expression in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as our future report on Latin America.
- Gathering evidence of human rights abuses for artist asylum cases
- Drafting grant applications, internal and external memos, promotional copy and white papers
- Reviewing and synthesizing external policy proposals and developments in immigration and international law
- Providing support to Artistic Freedom Initiative's established programs on legal assistance to artists at risk

### **Requirements**

- M.A. degree with a minimum GPA of 3.5.
- Advanced research skills, particularly related to Human Rights reports and investigations
- Highly developed writing skills with a strong preference for candidates with a history of publications
- Strong organizational and administrative skills
- Knowledge of and passion for art, human rights, and freedom of expression
- Ability to succeed in fast-paced environments as a self-motivated team player

### **Preferable Attributes**

- Proficiency in a second language (Russian, Spanish, French, etc...)
- Regional Expertise in Central and Eastern Europe or Latin America
- Previous experience in human rights work and/or at a human rights NGO
- Experience in a non-profit setting
- Grant writing skills

**Salary And Benefits:** Salary will range from \$48,000 to \$50,000 (depending on experience), with employer-paid benefits.

**Application Deadline:** December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### **How to Apply:**

Please email **a single document** in pdf format, including a cover letter (one page maximum), resume, and a writing sample to [ashley@artisticfreedominitiative.org](mailto:ashley@artisticfreedominitiative.org). Subject line should read "Human Rights Fellow – [Last Name, First Name]." Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. No phone calls, please.

### **About Artistic Freedom Initiative:**

AFI directly assists artists whose freedom of expression has been restricted and supports artists who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing progressive social change and fundamental human rights. We work with immigrant artists to champion art produced in exile, advance creative cultural exchange, improve conditions for artists in their home countries, and safeguard their ability to express themselves creatively throughout the world. Please visit us on the web at [www.artisticfreedominitiative.org](http://www.artisticfreedominitiative.org) to learn more.

Since its inception in 2017, AFI has:

- Taken on over 330 artist cases
- Reached \$1.75 million in pro bono legal services and resettlement assistance
- Supported artists from 40 countries, including Iran, Iraq, Syria, Bangladesh, India, Uganda, Indonesia, Vietnam, Egypt, Venezuela and Georgia
- Supported artists working in 26 creative mediums, including visual art, music, writing, photography, filmmaking, graphic design, theater, performance art, printmaking, and multidisciplinary art
- Provided over 85 months of fully-funded residencies for recently displaced or housing insecure immigrant artists
- Amplified the works of the artists in its network through our many exhibitions, events, and performances, successfully reaching an estimated 10,000+ people