Dear members of the Place-Based Justice Network,

I hope you are well. As you know the Place-Based Justice Network (PBJN) is a learning community committed to transforming higher education and our communities by deconstructing systems of oppression through place-based community engagement.

Thanks to the support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation we are pleased to announce the continuation of our Next Generation Fellows Program. The Next Generation Fellows Program is designed to nurture a more diverse and inclusive network by supporting emerging leaders of color who work with place-based community engagement efforts on their campuses and in their communities. In its second year, the Fellowship will engage three individuals in PBJ professional and personal development activities.

I am writing today to ask for your assistance in identifying and nominating one community engagement professional from your institution who would benefit from this fellowship experience. If you don’t have a staff person of color to nominate, the PBJ Network would like to engage with you in meeting the goal of nurturing a more diverse and inclusive network.

What is the fellowship experience? With facilitation from PBJN Steering Committee members, the Fellows will participate in (1) a one-day retreat prior to the summer 2020 PBJ Institute, (2) monthly zoom calls, (3) individualized coaching and (4) the PBJN Leaders Retreat in December 2020. The PBJN Steering Committee members will create a learning curriculum for the retreat and the zoom calls that will explore the process and practice of working to deconstruct systems of oppression through place-based community engagement.

Facilitated by members of the PBJN Steering Committee, consisting of seasoned professionals throughout our network, the Next Generation Fellowship is designed to assist emerging professionals of color in the community engagement field in thinking critically about who they are, who they are called to become, and how they can find the support they need to reach their goals.
The learning outcomes for the fellowship include:

- Developing a sense of community with the other fellows and the PBJ Network.
- Demonstrating an enhanced sense of identity for what it means to be a person of color in the field of community engagement.
- Demonstrating increased self-awareness and an expanded understanding of their personal impact on both the institutions and communities they are working in.
- Exhibiting increased comfort with vulnerability, and growing in the understanding of the importance of integrity and humility in community-based work.
- Developing specific goals for their holistic development as community engagement professionals
- Display a greater propensity to assume formal and informal leadership roles on campus and within the community.
- Demonstrating greater comfort with and effectiveness in joining with others, including those who have differing worldviews.
- Fostering a perspective of community engagement as having an anti-oppression framework that recognizes intersectionality.

We anticipate the fellowship to be a unique learning and growing opportunity for exemplary early-career professionals of color who have demonstrated themselves to be emerging leaders in the field of community engagement.

In order to promote the fellowship and recruit participants, we ask that you please nominate potential candidates by using the form linked here by Friday, March 20th. Self nominations are highly encouraged as we want to ensure that all eligible participants have the opportunity to apply.

By the end of March we will contact the nominee(s) and invite them to apply for the fellowship. The invitation will state explicitly that they have been nominated, by whom, and encourage them to participate in the fellowship.

Thank you so much for your assistance. Please contact me if you have any questions or if I can offer additional information.

Peace,

PBJS Next Generation Fellow Program Directors
John Loggins, University of San Diego and Roxanne De La Torre, Fordham University