



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Announces Hosts for Seven New Fellowships

**BOSTON, MA. November 1, 2021** – The FAO Schwarz Family Foundation has selected six social impact organizations to host the 2022-2024 cohort of FAO Schwarz Fellows.

The Foundation will sponsor seven two-year Fellowships in social impact at six nationally recognized nonprofits. The organizations selected this year are **Audubon Mid Atlantic** (Philadelphia), **The Clay Studio** (Philadelphia), **The Food Project** (Boston), **Museum of the City of New York** (New York City), and **NYC Audubon** (New York City). Each will host one new FAO Schwarz Fellowship position. **The sixth host, Breakthrough Greater Boston,** will host two positions in Boston.

The Fellowships are two-year paid positions that develop the leadership skills of recent college graduates interested in pursuing careers related to social change. From education in culture to education in conservation, from food insecurity to college access, from small and newer organizations to the larger and well-established, the diversity of organizations selected as hosts will provide the next cohort with a comprehensive view of the social impact landscape.

“Developing young leaders is more important than ever. In the wake of the pandemic and social unrest, many nonprofits around the country are engaged in radically rethinking their work and how they deliver their services from an equity, diversity and inclusion framework,” said Priscilla Cohen, Executive Director of the FAO Schwarz Family Foundation. “At the same time, we know graduating seniors have had their educational experiences disrupted and face a tumultuous job market. We’re grateful we can provide

talented future leaders with a paid professional experience—and a front-row seat to what we think will be an incredibly dynamic period of intense social change.”

The Fellows’ dedication to social change serves as an inspiration to hosts. “Hosting FAO Schwarz Fellows has energized our team and pushed us to regularly ask ourselves where and how we can continue to learn and grow. Their thoughtful ideas, willingness to innovate, and passion for impacting the world around them has enriched our organization as a whole,” said Ameer Naik, Managing Director of College Access & Success with Breakthrough Greater Boston, which has hosted two Fellows in the past.

A first-time host, The Clay Studio is equally enthusiastic about hosting a Fellow. “A commitment to community, learning, and social change is built into The Clay Studio’s DNA, so hosting a Fellow feels like a perfect fit. We hope this opportunity can be a stepping-stone for a recent graduate who is considering a nonprofit career,” said Carin Sankus, Education Manager with TCS.

Another first-time host, Suzanne Biemiller, Executive Director of Audubon Mid Atlantic shares, “The FAO Schwarz Fellowship will help Audubon expand its reach in Philadelphia. We cannot wait to have another enthusiastic staff person on board, bringing with them new ideas and perspectives.”

Host organizations also appreciate the value of increased organizational capacity that comes with hosting a Fellow, and use it as an opportunity to expand their service. Anne Hayes, Executive Director of The Food Project, said “This Fellow will play a critical role in sustaining and expanding The Food Project's food access initiatives, empowering the next generation of leaders, and help us to achieve our mission of ensuring everyone has access to fresh, healthy, affordable food.”

Executive Director at NYC Audubon, Kathryn Heintz, makes a similar point. “We are eager to participate in this program to develop future social impact leaders, as well as to boost our capacity to inspire a new generation of advocates for conservation.”

Returning host, the Museum of the City of New York, has a long legacy of Fellows. “We remain honored that the Museum of the City of New York has been selected as a host organization of a FAO Schwarz Fellow for the 2022-2024 cohort,” said Whitney W. Donhauser, Ronay Menschel Director & President at the Museum of the City of New York. “For the many years we have been fortunate enough to host a FAO Schwarz Fellow, the Museum has witnessed first-hand the enormous impact the Fellows have had on our programming for students, families, and teachers. We are grateful to the Foundation for this opportunity to continue to serve New Yorkers through this work.”

## CREATING FUTURE IMPACT LEADERS

The FAO Schwarz Fellowship program is looking forward to welcoming its 16th cohort. Since its founding in 2006, there have been 65 FAO Schwarz Fellows. Nearly 60 percent have gone on to graduate programs, 38 percent have been hired by their host organizations, and 98 percent continue to work in the social impact sector.

## HOW TO APPLY

The Fellowship is highly selective. To apply for the Fellowship, applicants must be college seniors at the time of application and eligible to work for two-years in the United States. Successful candidates will have strong academic records, leadership potential, and a commitment to social impact. The application deadline for the 2022-2024 cohort is February 10, 2022 (11:59 pm EST). The Fellowships are paid two-year full-time positions and include benefits. Visit the [FAO Schwarz Fellowship website](#) for more information.

## CONTACT:

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## ABOUT THE 2022-2024 HOST ORGANIZATIONS

**Audubon Mid-Atlantic's** mission is to protect the places that people and birds need today and tomorrow, through science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation.

**The Clay Studio** is committed to ensuring the space, support, and inspiration necessary for expression and mastery in the ceramic arts.

**Breakthrough Greater Boston** inspires excitement for learning, creates paths to college, and promotes careers in education.

**The Food Project's** mission is to create a thoughtful and productive community of youth and adults from diverse backgrounds who work together to build a sustainable food system.

The **Museum of the City of New York** fosters understanding of the distinctive nature of urban life in the world's most influential metropolis. It engages visitors by celebrating, documenting, and interpreting the city's past, present, and future.

**New York City Audubon** is a grassroots community that works for the protection of wild birds and habitat in the five boroughs, improving the lives of New Yorkers. We envision a day when birds and people in the five boroughs enjoy a healthy, livable habitat.

## ABOUT THE FAO SCHWARZ FELLOWSHIP

The FAO Schwarz Fellowship is an intensive, transformative two-year experience in the world of social change designed to develop the knowledge and leadership potential of recent college graduates interested in careers in social impact.