

Economic Democracy Schools Fellowship 2022

The Economic Democracy Schools Fellowship is a 9 month program to support Bronx high schools to understand principles and practices of economic democracy and cooperative enterprise, and to apply them throughout their school from curriculum to culture and community partnerships. It uses a "school team" approach, with one educator fellow and 2-3 youth fellows per school, with a total of five schools in the fellowship from March-October 2022.

The fellowship is based on the premise underpinning all of BCDI's work, which is that leaders from across sectors of society are needed to build economic democracy and community wealth, and that a movement building approach is the most effective way to build leaders and power for durable social and economic change. Economic democracy provides a coherent framework for understanding how to develop neighborhoods, workplaces, and communities where power is shared, inequality is dramatically reduced, and housing is dignified and affordable for all people. High schools that align with and train for economic democracy not only will create economic opportunities for young people



to work in democratic workplaces or to start their own businesses that generate shared, community wealth, and will also promote the kinds of development that rebuff gentrification and displacement in the Bronx through cooperative housing and community land trusts. Schools that embody values and practices of economic democracy, and integrate it into their school life are just as necessary as policies and financial resources that support shared ownership and economic democracy in our neighborhoods and beyond.

Youth fellows will be paid a stipend for their time, amounting to approximately \$20 per hour, over a total of about 75-80 hours. Educator fellows do not receive a stipend but do receive a free project based learning workshop intensive as well as 5 hours of individualized coaching from expert educator coaches with years of experience supporting project-based and inquiry-driven learning.



The end products of the fellowship will be:

- Each fellow, educator and youth, will produce a personal reflective practice document in the form of their choosing to document their own learning and reflections on the experience of the fellowship;
- The fellows together will produce a "toolkit" of recommendations and sample materials for policies and activities that can be undertaken by youth, families, educators, schools, philanthropy, and government.
- Five Project-Based Learning units (based on number of teachers participating) created by educators in consultation with youth fellows and CBO partners to integrate economic democracy history, practice, and concepts into classroom learning.



Fellowship Timeline

November/December 2021	Design program / begin outreach + recruitment
January/February 2022	• Finalize school teams (educators and youth)
March 2022	 All Fellows Orientation (Youth and Educators) Educator - Community Partners Dinner
April 2022	 Workshops begin for youth fellows Educator fellows prepare for PBL workshop series
May 2022	 Youth fellows begin meeting with cooperative entrepreneurs and practitioners Educators take PBL workshop series
June 2022	 Youth fellows continue to visit with cooperative entrepreneurs and practitioners Educators reflect on PBL workshop and begin adapting/designing unit
July 2022	 Youth fellows continue to visit with cooperative entrepreneurs and practitioners Educators reflect on PBL workshop and begin adapting/designing unit
August 2022	 Youth fellows reflect and synthesize on their time with cooperative practitioners Educator fellows share PBL unit proposals with youth for feedback Both prepare initial draft design of individual and group final project
September 2022	Fellows work on individual and group final projects
October 2022	• Fellows present out to the public on their work, findings, and next steps