Summer 2022 Public History Fellowship

Lake Forest benefited economically and socially from the small, strong community of African American residents, beginning in the late 1800s—although their stories have been absent from most of the historical records and narratives presented in the city’s history, including those at the History Center of Lake Forest Lake Bluff, the community’s museum and historical archive. The History Center is committed to undoing the deficits in our collections and bringing to light the rich and diverse experiences of life in Lake Forest for the hundreds of African American families that have called the city home since the 1870s. Deeply Rooted and Rising High is the History Center initiative designed to showcase the diverse Black histories of this community.

The project fellow will be responsible for assisting with the four research components that support this initiative.

1) historical research and conducting and recording interviews with 4-6 African American residents about their (or their ancestors’) experiences in the community
2) Primary and secondary research to inform the script for the self-guided walking tour
3) Scripting researched stories for the permanent digital exhibit (100-150 words each)
4) Supporting research needs for the partner institution, Ragdale Foundation

The fellow will work under the direction of the museum’s deputy director and head of curation. They will partner with the registrar at the museum on primary document research in the archives and in scheduling and gathering personal and institutional histories. There will be an optional opportunity for the fellow to present to the public at the end of the fellowship.

The grant funding for the role provides for 15 hours a week for 10 weeks at $20/hour for a salary total of $3000. There is an additional stipend of $800 for a final public presentation of the work done during the fellowship. The fellowship runs from June 13 through August 26, 2022. This position is part-time and does not receive benefits.

The applicant should have a strong interest in public history and the applications of historical study outside the academy. They must be currently enrolled in good standing in a relevant Master’s or PhD program in the humanities. Please submit resume or CV, two reference letters (one from your current advisor), and a cover letter to lstein@lflbhistory.org