

## **Graduate-Level Student Internship with MIT CoLab's Economic Democracy Project**

### *Overview:*

MIT Community Innovators Lab is seeking a graduate-level student intern on a part-time basis to support the Economic Democracy Project, which encompasses several cohorts of Mel King Community Fellows made up of worker center, labor, and community leaders, who are collectively working to build a multi-racial, multi-sectoral movement.

### *Background:*

MIT Community Innovators Lab (CoLab) is a center for planning and development within the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning. CoLab supports the development and use of knowledge from excluded communities to deepen civic engagement, improve community practice, inform policy, mobilize community assets, and generate shared wealth.

CoLab's Mel King Community Fellows Program is dedicated to the legacy of Mel King, a still-active champion of cities and the communities they comprise. Mel King initiated the Community Fellows Program in 1970 when he was an adjunct professor at MIT. The program offered Fellows a year-long sabbatical at MIT, where they could reflect, conduct research, acquire skills, and build new relationships. Mel King Fellows are recognized leaders in communities across the country and have experience in a range of social justice pursuits. The program's goal is to create a dispersed learning network among the Fellows for co-creating knowledge.

### *Description:*

CoLab continues to work with and convene the 2011 and 2013 classes of Mel King Community Fellows, comprised of labor, worker center, and community leaders, who have been building collaborative relationships and deepening their understanding of economic democracy under the umbrella of the Economic Democracy Project. During the most recent convening in June 2017, the participants reflected on what led us to the political climate we are currently in, shared concerns and hopes for the future of our work, and defined a new politic that we should all collectively work toward. Their vision is to build a multi-racial, multi-sectoral movement. The fellows are currently advancing five areas of work outlined at the convening with support from CoLab and plan to reconvene in Spring 2018.

### *Opportunity:*

CoLab is seeking a graduate student with relevant interests and expertise to support the Economic Democracy Project by providing ongoing area-specific support (outlined below) to the established working groups as they continue to develop their work, as well as support with ongoing project design.

**Responsibilities include:**

- Supporting fellows across the following areas:
  - Tracking and supporting 3 major campaigns that can collectively build a broader movement in the U.S.
  - Analyzing how to build power in the South
- Additional areas of support may include:
  - Developing a learning agenda around innovative financial products
  - Aiding ongoing discussions around shifting culture and narrative nationally and in the South
  - Understanding the connections between waging campaigns and building long-term infrastructure
- Providing ongoing knowledge capture
- Conducting research
- Producing project proposals, reports, and memos, as relevant
- Participating in conference calls and meetings
- Co-planning and designing meetings and convenings as needed
- Supporting the ongoing program design of the Economic Democracy Project

*Qualifications:*

The ideal candidate will have at least two or three of the following:

- Strong research and writing skills
- Familiarity with labor and worker organizations
- Familiarity with community organizing and movement building
- Background or interest in racial justice
- Background or interest in economic democracy
- Background in economic development, community development and/or finance

*Commitment:* 10 hours/week through June 2018, with the possibility of the internship extending through the summer.

*Compensation:* \$20/hour

*Application Process:*

To apply for this position, please send the following materials to Katherine Mella at [kmella@mit.edu](mailto:kmella@mit.edu): a resume and a brief description of why you are interested in this position, including what relevant experience you would bring to the role. We are actively receiving applications and will be inviting selected applicants to interview on a rolling basis.