

PAT ASCH  
FELLOWSHIP  
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

2017

eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

Richmond

# PAT ASCH FELLOWSHIP FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

## FELLOWSHIP OVERVIEW AND PHILOSOPHY



YWCA Richmond established the Pat Asch Fellowship for Social Justice to further the work and honor the memory of former YWCA Executive Director, Patricia Morris Asch. The Fellowship is designed to support the work or professional development of a woman who, like Pat, has a vision for change in her own life and the drive to make positive change in the Greater Richmond community.

The Fellowship will be awarded to a woman who seeks to re-direct her experience to a new cause or constituency, particularly through endeavors that promise to make ours a more fair, inclusive, and equitable community.

This annual fellowship opportunity was first announced at YWCA Richmond's Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon, on April 25, 2014.

Pat Asch lived a long life, throughout which her actions and decisions were guided by her deep convictions and ideals. A native of New York City, Pat moved to Richmond in 1957. For the whole of her life in Virginia, Pat devoted herself to her family and friends; to the general cause of social justice; and to the specific causes of empowering women; overcoming the divisions of race; uplifting disenfranchised members of the community; furthering equity in education; preventing and treating child abuse; and combating poverty and its effects.

Over the span of Pat's volunteer career, she served with great distinction on numerous nonprofit Boards. Her professional resume detailed a series of leadership roles, including her work as Coordinator of Adult, Non-Credit programs at Virginia Commonwealth University; Executive Director of YWCA Richmond; Director of the Jewish Family Services Soviet Resettlement Program, and Executive Director of the Jackson Foundation. Pat began constructing her long and distinguished career after the age of 50. Following her retirement at age 80, Pat continued to seek new forms of service – a drive that characterized her until the end of her life.

In an interview at the time of her retirement, Pat observed, "I believe that growth comes through change." Her legacy is a model of lifelong change and growth, and of the power of an individual to serve and strengthen a community.



Richmond

6 N 5th St ♦ Richmond, VA 23219 ♦ 804-643-6761

[www.ywcarichmond.org](http://www.ywcarichmond.org)

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## Introduction

The Fellowship will be administered by the YWCA of Richmond, with one fellowship of up to \$17,500 awarded to one woman, annually. The Fellowship is designed to honor and extend Pat Asch's legacy by providing a local woman with means that are critical to her ability to bring about change **in her own life**, with the intention of creating positive social change through Richmond's nonprofit sector.



Fellowship funds can be applied to a range of interests including furthering the recipient's own education or professional development; reentering the workforce; switching to a new career; or extending her work to a new constituency.

## Eligibility

Consideration for this award is open to any woman who is at least 50 years of age and who resides or works in Richmond City, Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, Goochland or Powhatan County. Staff and relatives of the YWCA and the Fellowship Selection Committee are not eligible to apply for the Fellowship.

Through the required materials detailed below, each applicant is invited to describe a potential experience this Fellowship will provide. An applicant's proposed fellowship experience should position her to engage in new endeavors, motivated by an interest in positive social change, and/or enable her to "grow through change," achieve personal and professional goals and contribute to social justice in our community.

In her fellowship experience proposal, each applicant is expected to include a realistic projection of activities to be completed within 12 to 24 months of receiving her award and expected outcomes of her fellowship experience.

The following are not eligible for funding with the Pat Asch Fellowship for Social Justice:

- Capital investments (property)
- Operational expenses
- Stipends or gift for project participants and/or people other than the applicant



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## Application Requirements

YWCA Richmond requires submission of all of the following documents in order to be considered eligible for the Pat Asch Fellowship for Social Justice:

1. A one page cover letter that includes a brief biography and contact information.  
*Please remember to include the applicant's date of birth to ensure age eligibility for this fellowship.*
2. A statement of intent, up to three pages in length, that describes:
  - the applicant's interest in and motivation to apply for the Fellowship
  - the problem area to be addressed through the applicant's social justice efforts
  - the Fellowship project/experience design
  - intended outcomes from the Fellowship cycle
  - the relationship between this project and the cause of social justice
3. A detailed timeline and specific plan for the use of the funds.

## Application Deadline

Please submit materials to Rupa Murthy, Chief Development Officer at [rmurthy@ywcarichmond.org](mailto:rmurthy@ywcarichmond.org). All application materials must be ***received no later than: 5:00 p.m. on February 15, 2017.***

Applications will not be accepted by facsimile or mail.

## Selection Process

Fellowship applicants will be notified of finalist status by **March 1, 2017**. The Fellowship Selection Committee will interview finalists for the Pat Asch Fellowship for Social Justice.

Finalists will be notified of the Committee's final selection status by **April 1, 2017**, and the Fellowship recipient will be announced to the public at the YWCA of Richmond's Outstanding Women Awards luncheon on **April 28, 2017**.

If selected for this Fellowship, applicants should note that the Fellowship is considered income. Fellowship recipients are encouraged to discuss filing requirements with their tax advisers.



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## Reporting Requirements

The recipient of the Pat Asch Fellowship for Social Justice will be required to submit a detailed report (interim or final) each December during the project period. The report should include specific activities or roles assumed during the Fellowship period, observations about personal growth, and how the Fellowship is contributing towards personal and professional interests that can benefit the nonprofit sector. A detailed accounting of the use of Fellowship funds is required. The Fellowship Selection Committee is also interested in learning about unintended experiences and change that may be attributed to this opportunity.

The Fellowship recipient will be required to present the results of her experiences at future YWCA events.

## Contact

For more information about the Pat Asch Fellowship for Social Justice, you may contact:

Rupa Murthy  
Chief Development Officer  
[rmurthy@ywcarichmond.org](mailto:rmurthy@ywcarichmond.org)  
804-980-7302



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