

You've spent 50 years focused on others. It's now time to focus on you.

The **Pat Asch Fellowship for Social Justice** invests in a local woman, who is at least 50 years of age, to focus on a deeply personalized, up to 2-year leadership and professional development journey. What makes this fellowship unique is our emphasis on honoring and recognizing the whole woman. This journey comes with a \$20,000 investment in a woman who is ready to tap into her worthiness and channel her passion and lived experience into a project that would strengthen herself and her impact in the Greater Richmond community.

The past six Pat Asch Fellows have each explored a wide variety of personal projects. And yet, they are all united by deep connection to their purpose, each other, and their communities. For more information about their projects, visit: www.ywcarichmond.org/fellowship

- 2015 - **Cheryl Groce-Wright** deepened her work in asset-based community development and engaging residents as leaders in all aspects of community development.
- 2016 - **Leslie Lytle** brought together maternal health stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to explore how to improve the local environment for all of Richmond's emerging families.
- 2017 - **Gigi Amateau** focused on trauma and resilience for older adults and the direct care workforce.
- 2018 - **Nadine Marsh-Carter** further extended her social justice work in the Richmond community by addressing the importance of equity in philanthropy.
- 2019 - **Anne Moss Rogers** advanced her work in youth suicide prevention, mental health, addiction, and grief.
- 2021-2022 – **Sarah McFarland** built her confidence and a sense of empowerment through her peer facilitation in addressing multigenerational trauma and mental health. Today, she is working to establish a network of trauma-informed faith communities.

Ready for the next step in your journey?

Read on, dream big for what's possible for yourself and your community, and apply.

Fellowship Overview

YWCA Richmond recognizes one woman annually who is 50 years or better and has the passion and vision to bring about change in her own life while championing equity and justice in her community. The fellowship is a \$20,000 investment in her leadership or development project.

History of the Pat Asch Fellowship for Social Justice:

YWCA Richmond established the Pat Asch Fellowship for Social Justice in 2014 to further the work and honor the memory of former YWCA Richmond Executive Director, Patricia Morris Asch, whose career began after the age of 50. The Fellowship is designed to invest in 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. When Pat was approaching retirement, at the age of 80, she observed, "I believe that growth comes through change." Her legacy is a model of lifelong change and growth -- and the power of community members to lead and strengthen a region.

Proposal Requirements:

- Describe a leadership or development experience for which this Fellowship will help launch.
- Proposed fellowship experience should position applicant to engage in new endeavors motivated by a desire for social change.
- Outline personal and professional goals and how the applicant intends to invest in herself while advancing her social justice work in Richmond.

Fellowship funds can be applied to a wide range of goals such as:

- Furthering the recipient's own education, leadership, or professional development
- Re-entering the workforce
- Switching to a new career
- Extending her work to a new social justice purpose

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

Application Details

Fellowship Eligibility:

Consideration for this award is open to any woman who:

- Is at least 50 years of age
- Resides or works in Richmond City, Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, Goochland, or Powhatan County

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

- Capital investments (property)
- Operational expenses
- Stipends or gifts for project participants and/or people other than the applicant
- Staff and relatives of YWCA Richmond and the Fellowship Selection Committee are not eligible to apply for the Fellowship

Application Requirements:

Applicants may submit a written or video narrative of their project which can be in English or Spanish. YWCA Richmond requires submission of all of the following documents or files in order to be considered eligible for the Pat Asch Fellowship for Social Justice:

1. One-page cover letter that includes a brief biography and contact information. Please remember to include date of birth to ensure age eligibility for the fellowship.
2. Statement of intent (if written, up to three pages; if a video, up to 10 minutes) that describes:
 - Your interest in and motivation to apply for the Fellowship
 - The issue or priority to be addressed through your social justice efforts
 - The Fellowship project/experience design
 - Your intended outcomes from the Fellowship experience
 - The relationship between this project and the cause of social justice
3. Detailed timeline and specific plan for the use of the funds. A budget template is on YWCA website for your use: www.ywcarichmond.org/fellowship

Key Dates

Here are the key dates for the application and selection process:

- **Tuesday, August 15, 2023 - Written or video application is due by 5 pm.** Please submit applications to Nadia Gooray at ngooray@ywcarichmond.org.
- **Friday, September 15, 2023** - Finalists will be notified for an interview.
- **Friday, October 13, 2023** - Fellowship recipient will be notified.
- **Late October 2023** - The 2023-2024 Pat Asch Fellow will be announced to the public.
- **May 2024** - The 2023-2024 Fellow will be invited to share reflections for her first few months at the 2024 Outstanding Woman Awards.

Contact

Please email application materials to Nadia Gooray, Director of Equity and External Affairs, at ngooray@ywcarichmond.org.

All application materials must be received by Tuesday, August 15 at 5 pm.

For more information about the Pat Asch Fellowship for Social Justice, please visit www.ywcarichmond.org/fellowship or contact:

Nadia Gooray
Director of Equity and External Affairs
804-643-6761 ext 129
ngooray@ywcarichmond.org

**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.*