HBCU Research Intern Program
at if, A Foundation for Radical Possibility

Description
The HBCU Research Network was an organization founded in 1999 to conduct research and outreach that address the health needs of African Americans. The organization closed its doors in 2020 and provided a grant to if, A Foundation for Radical Possibility to continue its legacy of supporting HBCU students. if has matched the contribution to create funding for an intern to work on a research project at if each summer between 2021 and 2025. The intern will join the RISE team at the foundation.

The RISE team is dedicated to disrupting institutions and structures that perpetuate anti-black racism and other intersectional discriminatory harms. The intern will be directly supported by Temi Bennett, Esq. who is the Director of Policy, and will provide research guidance for the project. The intern will also be supported by a professor at the student’s university home.

Responsibilities
The student will rely on books/texts, documentaries, and media to document events or frameworks at the intersection of structural racism and the environment in the District of Columbia. For each event (e.g., the District’s Buzzard Point pollution) or framework (e.g., Eminent Domain), the student will write a brief description of key facts related to the event or supporting evidence for the framework.

The student will provide updates on the project at monthly RISE team meetings and will work closely with a professor at their university who will provide guidance to the foundation about how this research can be translated for a gallery audience.

Qualifications
- Undergraduate (seniors only) or graduate level enrolled at one of the following local schools: Bowie State University, Howard University, or the University of the District of Columbia (UDC)
- Interest in history, structural racism, and the environment
Interest in telling the story of environmental racism in the District through a racial justice lens

Written and verbal communication skills

Attentiveness to deadlines

**Timeline**

The student will work 12 weeks from June 6 – August 26 and will meet with Temi Bennett once per week during the project period. Please note that the foundation will be closed on certain dates during the summer (every Friday and for a two-week period from July 4-15th) but the student will be expected to work on this project during those times. However, the student will not be expected to work on July 5th (Independence Day observance).

**Compensation.** The student will be paid $20/hour and will work 20 hours per week. All compensation is subject to payroll taxes as required by state and federal laws. The student will also receive a $300 wellness allowance to facilitate healing justice while researching parts of American history that can be emotionally taxing. This allowance can be used for activities such as yoga, bodywork, massage, fitness classes, etc. The student can pay for the activity and submit for reimbursement or the student can submit the information about the activity to Temi for payment beforehand with the receipt submitted after the activity has taken place. The student can also seek approval for purchase of books and other source materials needed for the project.

**Products.** The student will be expected to submit the above-referenced documentation of events and frameworks, a list of sources (books, texts, documentaries, media, etc.) and a one-page guidance to the foundation about how to translate the findings for a gallery audience. These final products are due on August 20. **The student will also deliver a final presentation to the full staff on August 18.**

**How to Apply:**

- Resume and cover letter describing credentials and interest in project
- 1 Letter of support from advisor at school (sent directly to Temi Bennett)
- 1 Letter of recommendation (sent directly to Temi Bennett)
- All materials due May 23, 2022 by 5pm to temi@iffdn.org