

INVESTING *in* PLACE

Date: July 2, 2020

Organization: Investing in Place

Position: Estolano Advisors Fellow

Reports to: Executive Director

Pay rate: \$25 per hour

Timeline: August and September with option to continue throughout the fall.

Requirement: The applicant must be a Master's of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) student at UCLA.

Summary: Investing in Place, created in January 2015 as a non-profit project of Community Partners, is an advocacy organization where our mission is to align policies and public dollars to support transportation investments that strengthen communities.

We imagine a Greater Los Angeles where we bridge the gap between policy thinkers, decision makers, and on-the-ground community leaders to reduce social inequities through public policies and investments. By investing in our most vulnerable neighborhoods, we improve public health and exceed environmental goals for the whole region. We recognize that equity is not a special interest, but in everybody's interest.

Thanks to the generous support from Estolano Advisors, Investing in Place is hiring an Estolano Advisors Fellow for July and August of 2020 with the option of continuing into the Fall. Key responsibilities of the Estolano Advisors Fellow will be assisting in developing materials for community-based partners around Los Angeles Transportation policy, budgets, and programs.

Job Description: Investing in Place is currently seeking a full-time paid Estolano Advisors Fellow for our campaigns regarding prioritizing social equity, public health and environmental benefits in equitable transportation policies and investments in Los Angeles County. Now is a critical time to deepen and expand conversations around mobility and land use as the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission, Metro, faces significant budget challenges due to COVID-19 and mobility and access needs and gaps continue to grow.

Los Angeles County has tremendous disparities in wealth, health outcomes, and access to education, jobs, and services. Transportation's role in perpetuating these disparities is increasingly understood, as are the opportunities to mitigate historical disinvestment with intentional policy to prioritize the needs of low-income communities of color. The goal of our work is to increase funding and improve policies that result in more safe, accessible and equitable transportation choices, especially in lower-income communities of color in Los Angeles County.

Roles and Responsibilities: The Estolano Advisors Fellow will work closely with the Executive Director to conduct policy research and writing for publications that reframe the debate on transportation policies and investments in Los Angeles County. This ranges from analyzing Metro budgets, developing policy briefs, writing blog posts and

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other communication materials, analyzing impacts and needs from COVID-19. Two key campaigns the Estolano Advisors Fellow will be focused on are:

- Better Buses for LA
- Moms and Mobility

Investing in Place coordinates the **Better Buses for LA** monthly work group meetings which is an interdisciplinary collection of grassroots community leaders, members of the business community leaders, public agency staff, and grassroots policy experts coming together with the shared goal of increasing community understanding of and engagement on improving the region's bus system and is focused on championing implementation for bus only lanes in 2020 and 2021. Investing in Place also participates in ACT-LA's transit justice committee and collaborates with other non-profit organizations to expand and support new voices and leaders on transit justice with our policy and advocacy research and analysis.

This summer Investing in Place is kicking off a new project focused around **Moms and Mobility**. Los Angeles transportation policy decisions and programs are made without the understanding of the full transportation needs of women and their families - decisions surrounding infrastructure, amenities (e.g. car seats in rideshares or bike share, bathrooms at train stations, bus shelters and more). Making decisions using data that is incomplete and uninformed results in adverse and dangerous impacts on women and moms ability to move around their city and for their families to thrive. This project highlights access and safety for how women and their young children travel to school, work, healthcare, the grocery store, parks and more. Our project is a partnership among South Central LAMP, East Side Riders Bike Club, and Los Angeles Walks, and Investing in Place and will combine new data and new voices from women to influence policy and investments for a transportation system that serves and strengthens our entire region.

Required Qualifications:

- Demonstrate a commitment to social justice and livable communities for all ages and abilities
- Be a Master's of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) student at UCLA
- Familiarity with the region's transportation's opportunities and challenges
- Superb interpersonal skills
- Excellent analytical, written and verbal communications skills
- Ability to work well independently
- A fundamental understanding of current issues and challenges facing individuals from underserved communities including comprehensive understanding of racial equity and diversity.

Desired Qualifications:

- Lived experience with race and equity
- Fluent in Spanish
- Experience riding all forms of transit in / around low-income communities.
- Additional educational background experience, such as sociology, critical race theory, ethnic studies and other race and community-focused studies, social work/welfare, history, etc.

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- Ability to meaningfully engage a wide variety of stakeholders in challenging dialogue and critical self-reflection around racial identity, implicit bias, systemic racism, structural inequities, etc.

Terms of employment: Up to 240 hours at \$25 per hour during August 2020 thru Fall 2020, with potential option to continue. Working from home.

Application Process: Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume and two writing samples (preferably one sample of something informative and another related to data/analysis) in one PDF file to: jessica@investinginplace.org. The PDF file shall be named as follows: [LastName]_EA Fellow.pdf.

Applications are **due by end of day on Friday August 7th** end of day but may close sooner as we are looking to fill this Fellowship as soon as possible.