

Echoing Green's Fellowship

Seeking Social Innovators Advancing Racial Equity

Echoing Green works where social justice and social innovation meet, backing bold leaders who believe in upending unjust systems. We seek people with the best ideas for social transformation and do everything we can to help them succeed.

One of the greatest threats to building a world where all people thrive is racial injustice and we believe social innovation is an important tool for addressing this head-on. We're committed to building upon our 35-year track record of finding, investing, and connecting some of the world's best social innovators to ensure that the social innovation field directly contributes to advancing racial equity globally.

Echoing Green Fellows connect across their experiences, whether they are working on access to education across Michigan, digital equity in Accra, environmental justice in Brazil, or Indigenous sovereignty across the world. Together, we strive to build a world that has yet to exist: a future free from racism and its far-reaching consequences where all people can thrive.

The Fellowship is for people who are experts on the challenge they've chosen to confront and whose enterprises are at an early stage. We seek leaders who reflect the communities they serve and bring deep knowledge of the issues into their work as they design solutions with and for their communities. We strongly encourage leaders from anywhere in the world who identify as Black, Indigenous, or a person of color to apply for the Fellowship.

Echoing Green views racial equity as an end-state where all people have equal opportunity and resources to thrive. To get there requires ongoing and intentional acts to drive justice forward globally, with the people and communities most impacted by structural racism determining the roadmap.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR OUR FELLOW INVESTMENTS

The Echoing Green community is multi-generational, multi-racial, geographically diverse, and cross-class. Through collective action and a multi-sectoral approach, we believe we can progress faster toward dismantling oppressive systems worldwide. The following principles guide our work.

Echoing Green supports leaders to:

» build and shift power.

We support proximate leaders who are disrupting the status quo by shifting power dynamics. The best innovators use their clear understanding of the problem to develop the sharpest solutions. We look for leaders who show how their idea will shift power to the people most impacted by the outcomes of their enterprise.

» resource intersectional approaches.

Trying to understand inequality through a single identity can lead to misunderstanding its impact and exclude people from solutions. We look for leaders who build solutions with an intersectional¹ understanding of how social

“Social entrepreneurs are designers, they are creators of experiences, they are creators of challenging in many cases, the status quo, and challenging systems of oppression. And so we have to also recognize that the systems of oppression, inequality, and inequity are by design, but that also means that they can be redesigned.”
- Antionette Carroll, 2018 Fellow

¹ The term [intersectionality was coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw](#), American civil rights advocate, lawyer, and a leading scholar of critical race theory.

identities, including gender, sexuality, ethnicity, disability, and class, intersect with race to differently shape people's experiences in the world.

» fuel radical imagination.

Our community is inspired by the idea that collectively, we can help build a world that has yet to exist—where all people can thrive. Radical leaps of imagination can power social movements and transformational change. We invest in leaders who are motivated by what they can imagine, embrace bold ideas, and are ready to draw upon a legacy of change-making that is visionary and courageous.

“Intersectionality is a metaphor for understanding the ways that multiple forms of inequality or disadvantages sometimes compound themselves— and they create obstacles that often are not understood within conventional ways of thinking about anti-racism or feminism or whatever social justice advocacy structures we have.” - Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw