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*2018 Program Year*

Austin Area Research Organization (AARO) is accepting applications for the 2018 Class of Frank McBee Jr. Fellows. Completed applications are due by **Thursday, August 10, 2017, at noon.**

**AUSTIN AREA RESEARCH ORGANIZATION**

AARO, a non-partisan, non-profit organization, is a think-tank of 110 business and community leaders. AARO engages regional leaders in data-driven, deliberative action to advance the long-term economic and social well-being of Central Texas. AARO focuses its efforts in five priority areas: Energy & Water, Health Care, P-16 Education, Social Equity and Transportation. The AARO membership reflects the diverse base of the Central Texas region with representation from industry, manufacturing, real estate, finance, health care, professional firms, the arts, and educational, religious, and charitable institutions. More information about AARO is available at [www.aaroregion.com](http://www.aaroregion.com).

**THE FRANK MCBEE JR. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN CIVIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

The Frank McBee Jr. Fellows Program is a rigorous, 13-month program for civic leadership development. The Fellowship is designed to seed Central Texas with leaders who think regionally and act as stewards for the greater common good. Like AARO members, McBee Fellows:

- Lead with integrity - individually and collectively.
- Establish and nurture relationships of trust.
- Think and act systemically, considering the interdependency of issues.

Frank McBee Jr. Fellowships offer exceptional Central Texas leaders first-hand, practical experience working with regional civic entrepreneurs on a variety of public policy issues to improve the long-term economic and social quality of life for all Central Texans.

During the program year, Fellows actively engage with many of the region's most influential business and community leaders through AARO committee and membership meetings. In addition, each Fellow meets regularly with two AARO mentors throughout the year. AARO carefully selects the mentors for each Fellow to maximize their growth as leaders and enhance the quality of the Fellowship experience. Fellows are expected to repay the privilege of participating in the Fellowship year by contributing to the region as future leaders and inspiring others in their spheres of influence to think and act in the long term best interest of the region.

**CRITERIA**

Selection of Frank McBee Jr. Fellows is highly competitive with a number of attributes being considered, including:

- Proven portfolio of community experience and leadership
- Diversity of thought and experience
- Passion for making a difference in the economic and social well-being of Central Texas
- Alignment with AARO’s objectives, regional focus and values
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and foster collaboration
- Capacity and commitment to participate fully at the AARO committee level

AARO will select up to ten Fellows for 2018.

*Applicants must live in Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis or Williamson counties. Applications from most elected officials or candidates running for elected office will not be considered. AARO will consider applications from school board or community college trustees and candidates.*

**COMMITMENT**

McBee Fellows must attend the McBee Fellow orientation and the AARO Annual Meeting and Retreat (see below) and the (to be scheduled) November 2018 Annual Meeting and Retreat. McBee Fellows are expected to attend at least nine (9) hours of issue committee meetings (noon – 1:30 p.m.) each quarter, except during July and August, and three (3) of the five (5) bi-monthly membership meetings from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Some schedule flexibility is needed in order to participate in or attend other occasional meetings.

The selection committee interview finalists for the 2018 Class of McBee Fellows the morning of **Friday, September 29, 2017.**

The first commitments of the 2018 McBee Fellows will be orientation and the 2017 AARO Annual Meeting and Retreat.

<b>2018 McBee Fellow Orientation:</b>	<b>Thursday, October 26, 2017 Noon – 1:30 p.m.</b>
AARO Annual Meeting & Retreat:	Monday, November 6, 2017, Noon – 5:00 p.m.

**Applicants should reserve these dates on their calendars.**

The Fellowship year begins December 1, 2017, and concludes December 31, 2018.

**PROGRAM FEES**

Program fees for 2018 will likely be \$1,670 for dues and \$310 for the meal fee. (Fees will be finalized in November 2017.) The Annual Meeting and Retreat registration fee is \$125 for each event. Fellows are expected to attend the Annual Meeting and Retreat in both November 2017 and November 2018. Fellows may pay up front or in scheduled installments. AARO staff will work with Fellows to create a payment plan. Total cost of the program is \$2,230.

Need-based partial scholarships may be available.

**APPLICATION PROCESS & TIMELINE**

To apply, please click on 'Program Application' directly from the website to complete and submit the application. Only online applications will be accepted.

Completed applications, including letters of reference, must be submitted no later than Thursday, August 10, 2017, at noon.

AARO anticipates selecting the class of 2018 McBee Fellows by October 24, 2017. Applicants will be notified by phone or email.