
2019 Program Year

Austin Area Research Organization (AARO) is accepting applications for the 2019 Class of Frank McBee Jr. Fellows. Applications are due by **Wednesday, August 1, 2018, at noon.**

AUSTIN AREA RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

AARO, a non-partisan thought leader for Central Texas, has worked behind the scenes on critical regional issues for 38 years. AARO engages its 110 members in deliberative, strategic activities to advance the long-term economic and social well-being of Central Texas. An intentionally diverse group of Central Texas leaders drawn from business, industry, religious institutions, education, health care, real estate, the arts and foundations, AARO currently focuses its efforts in five priority areas: Energy and Water, Health Care, P-16 Education, Social Equity and Transportation.

More information about AARO is available at 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 2019.

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 2018 AARO Annual Meeting (see below) and the (to be scheduled) November 2019 Annual Meeting.

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 will interview finalists for the 2019 Class of McBee Fellows on Monday, September 24, 2018.

The first commitments of the 2019 McBee Fellows will be orientation and the 2018 AARO Annual Meeting.

2018 McBee Fellow Orientation: **Monday, October 22, 2018, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

2018 AARO Annual Meeting: **Monday, November 5, 2018, 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Applicants should reserve these dates on their calendars.

The Fellowship year begins December 1, 2018, and concludes December 31, 2019.

PROGRAM FEES

Program fees for 2019 will likely be \$1,800 for dues and \$330 for the meal fee. The Annual Meeting registration fee is \$125 for each event. Fellows are expected to attend the Annual Meeting in both November 2018 and November 2019. 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 \$2,380. Need-based partial scholarships may be available.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Completed applications, including letters of reference, must be submitted no later than Wednesday, August 1, 2018, at noon

Finalist interviews will be held on Monday September 24, 2018.

AARO anticipates selecting the class of 2019 McBee Fellows by October 10, 2018. Applicants will be notified by phone or email.

TO APPLY AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Applications will only be accepted via online submission (<https://aaroregion.com/mcbee-fellowship/>). Applicants are responsible for ensuring their completed application and two letters of reference are submitted before the noon deadline on Wednesday, August 1, 2018.

In addition to responding to basic demographic questions and submitting two letters of reference and a resume, applicants should be prepared to respond to the following:

- Provide a brief biography, include highlights of your values and work in the community, professionally and personally.
- Describe three most recent or most significant community and/or civic leadership roles and how your leadership in this role impacted the community.
- List any distinctions, honors or awards, if applicable.
- Briefly describe your company or organization and your role and decision-making authority within the organization.
- Explain your interest in AARO and serving as a McBee Fellow in 2019.
- Describe an experience you've had when working on a community project that illustrates the reason you would be a good fit for the McBee Fellowship Program. Describe the impact of the project.

QUESTIONS

Contact Leslie Weston, Program Director, at 512-477-4000 or lweston@aaroregion.com with questions about the McBee Fellowship program or application process.