
2020 Program Year

Austin Area Research Organization (AARO) is accepting applications for the 2020 Class of Frank McBee Jr. Fellows. Applications are due by **Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at noon.**

AUSTIN AREA RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

In 2020, AARO will celebrate its 40th year as a non-partisan thought leader for Central Texas, working behind the scenes on critical regional issues.

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: education, health, social equity, transportation and water. 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 2020.

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 2019 Annual Meeting and Retreat and the (to be scheduled) November 2020 Annual Meeting.

McBee Fellows are expected to attend at least two (2) issue committee meetings monthly (noon – 1:30 p.m.), 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 Friday, September 27, 2019. Interviews will be held at AARO's downtown Austin office.

The first commitments of the 2020 McBee Fellows will be orientation and the 2019 Annual Meeting and Retreat.

McBee Fellow Orientation: **Monday, October 21, 2019, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**
To be held at AARO's downtown Austin office

Annual Meeting and Retreat: **Monday, November 18, 2019, 3:00 – 7:30 p.m.**
To be held at the Salt Lick's Pecan Grove venue in Driftwood

Applicants should reserve these dates on their calendars.

The Fellowship year begins December 1, 2019, and concludes December 31, 2020.

PROGRAM FEES

Program fees for 2020 will likely be \$3,600 for the program year. This includes the meal fee and two (2) retreat registration fees. Fellows may pay up front or in scheduled installments. AARO staff will work with Fellows to create a payment plan. Partial, need-based scholarships may be available.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Completed applications, including letters of reference, must be submitted by applicants no later than Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at noon. Late or incomplete applications (e.g., missing reference letters) will not be considered.

Finalist interviews will be held on Friday, September 27, 2019, at AARO's downtown Austin office.

AARO anticipates selecting the class of 2020 McBee Fellows by October 10, 2019. 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, including reference letters, are submitted before the noon deadline on Tuesday, August 6, 2019.

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 2020.
- 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.