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*2021 Program Year*

Austin Area Research Organization (AARO) is accepting applications for the 2021 Class of Frank McBee Jr. Fellows. Applications are due by **Thursday, September 10, 2020.**

**AUSTIN AREA RESEARCH ORGANIZATION**

AARO, a non-partisan thought leader for Central Texas, has worked behind the scenes on critical regional issues for 40 years. AARO engages its 130 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: Health, Education, Social Equity, Transportation and Water.

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 2021.

*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 2020 AARO Annual Meeting (see below) and the (date to be determined) November 2021 Annual Meeting.

McBee Fellows are expected to attend at least nine (9) hours of issue committee meetings, except during July and August, and three (3) of the five (5) bi-monthly membership meetings. Some schedule flexibility is needed in order to participate in or attend other occasional meetings.

The first commitments of the 2021 McBee Fellows will be orientation and the 2020 AARO Annual Meeting.

2021 McBee Fellow Orientation: **Thursday, October 22, 2020, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

2020 AARO Annual Meeting: **Monday, November 16, 2020 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

2021 AARO Annual Meeting: *Date TBD*

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

The Fellowship year begins December 1, 2020 and concludes December 31, 2021.

### **PROGRAM FEES**

Program fees for 2021 will be \$3600. Fellows may pay up front or in scheduled installments. AARO staff will work with Fellows to create a payment plan. Need-based partial scholarships may be available.

### **APPLICATION TIMELINE**

Completed applications, including letters of reference, must be submitted no later than **Thursday, September 10, 2020**.

Finalist interviews will be scheduled in late September, early October.

AARO anticipates selecting the class of 2021 McBee Fellows by October 15, 2020. 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 deadline on **Thursday, September 10, 2020**.

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 2021
- 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 Christie Bradow, at 512-477-4000 or [cbradow@aaroregion.com](mailto:cbradow@aaroregion.com) with questions about the McBee Fellowship program or application process.