

## Seoul Metropolitan Government · Seoul Youth Hub · The Seoul Institute

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Young Activist Researcher Fellowship (AYARF)

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> AYARF.

The AYARF promotes open investigation by offering residency fellowship opportunities for young activist researchers who explore solutions for urban problems facing cities in Asia-Pacific with their work in both research and activism.

**\* Who are young activist researchers (ARers)?**

Young activist researchers refer to a principal agent who positively changes the world by discovering social issues or redefining social problems, acting to solve the issues or problems and arranging and disseminating the result of such act into research results.

The most critical problems we face today, such as climate change, pandemics, and technological revolutions, transcend national borders. Asian metropolises are also much more vulnerable to these global crises due to their high population densities and carbon emissions. The isolation and solitude of the untact age are also presenting new challenges. We need new approaches to solve new problems. The AYARF was thus launched with the aim of finding and supporting young activist researchers who attempt to find radical solutions for the urban problems in Asia from new perspectives.

The AYARF this year, held in the post-pandemic era when the demand for solutions is higher than ever, but physical interaction has become more difficult than ever, focuses on “Environment, Technology, and Urban Design” as its main themes.

The fellows invited to participate in the two-week residency program in Seoul will be given a research stipend of KRW 2,000,000 each by Seoul Youth Hub and The Seoul Institute as well as various resources facilitating their activities, including workshops on activism tools and methodology, referrals to sites of research, mentoring from experts, a chance to present their findings to a live audience.

The second AYARF (hereafter 2<sup>nd</sup> AYARF) will provide a valuable time-space continuum of empathy for young activist researchers who are striving to solve various urban problems despite lack of attention. The AYARF organizers believe that when young people are allowed to engage in grand discourses on the future course of humankind freely and actively, sharing their strategies and taking leadership over positive and desired changes, the human species will be one step closer to finding solutions to the problems plaguing their cities.

2<sup>nd</sup> AYARF will serve as the platform upon which the 20 invited Fellows and partners together imagine radical futures and their solutions and thereby build a growing community of high-minded Asia Young Activist Researchers.

As a platform of exchange and collaboration among young activist researchers, 2<sup>nd</sup> AYARF awaits participation from young citizens of Asia.

**Eligibility**

- Young researchers or activists who are undertaking research/activism on topics relevant to the themes of 2<sup>nd</sup> AYARF, with the aim of finding solutions to urban problems;
- Young researchers or activists whose work focuses on Asia-related issues;
- Persons aged 19 to 34 as of the AYARF date (born between June 19, 1985, and August 24, 2001);
- Persons able to participate in all the programs planned (\*see the "Schedule" below);
- Persons who submit all the required documents;
- Persons who will have not traveled overseas from August 1(Sat.) to August 23(Sun.), 2020.
  - Persons who travel overseas in the weeks preceding the AYARF must arrive in their respective home countries with enough time for two weeks of self-quarantine and additional testing and results.

**\* Themes for 2<sup>nd</sup> AYARF**

- Ecological disruption: Young people and planet
- A human-machine relationship & Digital sovereignty: Young people and technology
- Planning in the real time city: Young people and urban design

**\* 2nd Faculty**

Field specialists and Activist Researchers - they form a community with fellows, asking together and discussing rich inspirations, impressive insights, and new questions about the future society. The faculty will experiment with practical methodology and tools for the research and activities of the fellows.

- Youth and Environment [Lee, Yujin](#) Researcher at Green Transition Institute
- Youth and Digital Technology [Kweon, Ohyeon](#) Democratic Activist of Parti
- Youth and Urban Design [Kang, Eunji](#) Researcher at Dark Matter Labs

**Applicant types and capacity**

- Applicant types: Both individuals and teams (of three or fewer) may apply.
- The admission capacity is 20 (10 Koreans and 10 non-Koreans), but may be increased to 22 to accommodate team-type applicants.

**Required documents**

- [Download the application form](#) and submit it by email to [ayarf.seoul@youthhub.kr](mailto:ayarf.seoul@youthhub.kr)
- Each applicant's portfolio may include the following (optional):
  - Applicant's research materials showing relevancy to the AYARF themes;
  - Materials of all styles (texts, videos, etc.) under the size of 10Mb;
  - Up to three materials per applicant.

**Process & schedule**

※ Due to COVID-19, all or parts of the residency program may take place remotely, online. However, the below schedule shall remain the same.

※ The whole process including selection will be held in English. Subject to provide simultaneous interpretation depending on circumstances.

- Application period: 2020.6.18.(Thu.) ~ 2020.7.9.(Thu.) by 23:59 (KST) (Punctuality is of essence)
- Introduction for applicants: 2020.7.2.(Thu.) at 15:00 (KST) [AYARF YouTube Channel](#)
- Document review announcement: 2020.7.15.(Wed.)

- Applicants to be individually contacted by email
- Conference-call interviews: 2020.7.16.(Thu.)~2020.7.17.(Fri.)
- Final announcement: 2020.7.21.(Tue.) at 15:00 (KST)
  - Applicants to be individually contacted by email
- Pre-Residency virtual orientation: 2020.7.29.(Wed.)
- Pre-Residency webinars: 2020.8.5./12./19.(Wed.)
- Residency: 2020.8.24.(Mon.)~2020.9.5.(Sat.) (\*schedule below).
- Results to be submitted
  - Draft versions: 2020.10.7.(Wed.)
  - Final versions: 2020.11.11.(Wed.)
- Results Sharing Conference: in November (date TBA).

*Residency Schedule / *Venue: Seoul Innovation Park						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	August 24	August 25	August 26	August 27	August 28	August 29
Commencement Ice-breaking		Orientation	Radical Futures Conference	Open Investigations	Open Seminars	
August 30	August 31	September 1	September 2	September 3	September 4	September 5
Activist Research (Guerilla Sessions)				Provocations		Evaluation End

\* **Radical Futures Conference** : The Radical Futures Conference helps not only fellows participating in the Asia Young Activist Researcher Fellowship, but also various stakeholders to transform existing narratives about young people or form new narratives about young people.

\* **Open Investigations**: 3 main themes (environment, technology, urban design) are introduced under the open investigation methodology. The fellows will explore the structural root causes of the challenges of the 21st century, and discover the interconnectedness among them.

\* **Open Seminars**: Fellows will get to discuss hands-on various activist research methodologies and tactics that address the following questions: How should we view complex, interdependent systems? How can we connect the digital community, government and civil society for social and institutional changes? How do we define public projects and activities from the perspectives of diverse stakeholders? How can we prove the facts through quantitative and qualitative data?

\* **Activist Research**: In order to understand what context each research field is in, fellows will first establish each other's own hypothesis and assumptions about current challenges, then collect and analyze a variety of evidence data.

\* **Provocations**: Fellowship participants will continue to explore how their activities and research influences the 'Rights for future generations' through provocations. Provocations should take on a critical or reflective perspective, and should utilize diverse yet clear communication structures in order to enhance audience delivery.

## Residency results

- The works participants complete by the end of the residency are to be submitted back to the AYARF and shared, with the AYARF label, on the AYARF website and publications.
- Conditions and formats of submission will be decided after consult with the AYARF organizers

## Benefits for Fellows

- KRW 2,000,000 in research stipend

- Lectures and coaching from diverse experts and activist researchers
- Two opportunities to present one's work before a live audience
- Workshops on tools and methods of activism to aid new research
- Support for four days of free research activities (interview support, working spaces, etc.)
- A chance to share and expose one's research with the world
- Active support for voluntary sessions among Fellows
- Provide activist research support and exchange opportunities after fellowship

**Contact:** Team AYARF

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