Percival & Naomi Goodman Fellowship 2016

Application Deadline: April 4, 2016

About the Goodman Fellowship

Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation is pleased to announce the eighth annual Percival and Naomi Goodman Fellowship, to be awarded to a student graduating from Columbia University in spring 2016.

The purpose of the Fellowship is to enable the recipient to carry out a project of social significance related to the interests of Percival Goodman. Projects should be strongly humanist and be committed to the possibility that lives can be changed for the better. The amount of the award is $20,000. The project may be undertaken anywhere in the world. It may last up to one year after graduation and must be concluded with a final report, as indicated below. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must currently (during the 2015-2016 academic year) be completing either an M. Arch, A.A.D., Urban Planning, Urban Design, Historic Preservation, or Critical, Curatorial, and Conceptual Practices degree at Columbia’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation or an undergraduate degree in architecture at Columbia or Barnard College.

About Percival Goodman

Percival Goodman (1904-89), a professor in Columbia’s architecture school from 1946 to 1971, was an architect, planner, artist, and writer. His built and unbuilt projects were inspired by his strong commitment to social ideals. His synagogues were among the first religious structures in the United States to be designed according to modern architectural principles. With his brother, the sociologist and writer Paul Goodman, he wrote Communitas: Means of Livelihood and Ways of Life (1947), which influenced a generation of architects and planners and became an important catalyst of ideas for architecture, cooperative living, environmental design, and the design professional as an advocate for improved social conditions. Today his final book, The Double E (1977), linking ecology and economy, makes him a prophet of the era of sustainability that is beginning to unfold.

Note also that the Percival Goodman Architectural Records and Papers are held by the Avery Library Department of Drawings and Archives at Columbia.

This Fellowship is made possible through the generosity of Raymond Lifchez, M. Arch ‘57, GSAPP Faculty 1961-70, in honor of his former teacher, colleague, and friend Percival Goodman.

Application Guidelines

Please deliver seven printed copies of your application to the Dean’s Office in 402 Avery Hall. The application must consist of the following five items:

1. The application itself, consisting of no more than 1,000 words describing the project to be carried out the year after graduation.
2. An essay of no more than 250 words indicating how your proposed project reflects one or more aspect of Percival Goodman’s work, life, and ideals.
3. A current curriculum vitae.
4. The names and e-mail addresses of at least two faculty members who have reviewed your proposed project.
5. A schematic budget indicating the costs for the project.

The application should begin by stating the nature of the proposed project and then explain to the Selection Committee what you intend to do. It should include not only the activities that you plan to undertake but also how they will be accomplished, by whom, where, and when. It should also indicate why you want to do this project. In this section you might refer to current ideas related to architecture, planning, design, and/or urban and regional development and to the social significance of your proposed project. Last, the statement should indicate who will benefit and how so, whether from the project or its findings (if it is a research project).

Be sure to explicitly address the three points in the above paragraph: (1) project description, (2) project rationale, and (3) expected benefits. These three topics may be used as sub-titles in organizing your text. Make every effort to provide a clear description of your proposed project and what you hope to accomplish. This means organizing your ideas, writing effectively, and using visual materials strategically.

The selection committee will comprise members of the Columbia University faculty and outside architects and scholars familiar with the life and work of Percival Goodman. Among the criteria for evaluation will be the social relevance and potential impact of the proposed project and the applicant’s abiding commitment to the issues it raises.

The recipient will be required to submit intermittent progress reports to the committee over the course of the Fellowship and, at its conclusion, a final report including documentation of the project which will be submitted to the school archives. This prize will be processed in three installments over the course of the project, which must take place up to one year after graduating from Columbia University.

An information session will be held on Tuesday, March 1 at 5:00 PM in 412 Avery Hall. Previous submissions are available for review in Avery Library at the reference desk.