



SVP Seattle 2019 Brainerd Fellowship

Who Is Social Venture Partners?

Social Venture Partners (SVP) Seattle is a local network of more than 400 individual philanthropists, as well as the first of 40 affiliate organizations located around the globe. But we do more than give money. SVP helps individuals give strategically and engage effectively in their communities. We provide peer learning opportunities that foster a more generous philanthropic community, strengthen nonprofits by matching them with skilled volunteers and collaborate with local funders to channel pooled dollars to critical programs. Since 1997, SVP Seattle has worked with more than a thousand people – transforming how they give and creating ripple effects in the community. We have supported over 150 nonprofits, providing \$17 million in grants and consulting funds, and more than 35,000 skilled volunteer hours to strengthen organizations and accelerate collective action. For more information, visit www.svpseattle.org.

The SVP model is built around:

- **Engaged Philanthropy** – SVP connects and engages SVP Partners in shared learning, collective grantmaking, and hands on volunteering with grantee organizations.
- **Capacity Building** – SVP grantees receive multi-year, general operating support and pro bono consulting from SVP Partners to strengthen their organizational capacity.
- **Facilitating Collective Action** – SVP invests in collaborative solutions, acting as a convener and connector, so organizations with a common cause can align their efforts to influence systemic change.

SVP Partners make an annual contribution of \$6,000 (\$2,500 for those under 35 years old). These dollars are pooled to fund nonprofits in the Puget Sound region, so that:

- All children enter kindergarten ready to learn;
- All students graduate high school on time ready for college or career;
- The Puget Sound region is a place where all communities thrive balancing growth with quality of life in our built and natural environments.

What is the Brainerd Fellowship?

The Brainerd Fellowship — named in honor of SVP’s co-founder Paul Brainerd — is rooted in SVP’s value of equity, whereby we strive to center our efforts on those historically marginalized to balance power and access to resources. The **Brainerd Fellowship is an important part of our efforts to increase the participation of racially diverse voices, perspectives, and experiences into decision-making processes.** Doing so will not only enrich and strengthen the SVP network, but shift the power imbalance that is inherent in philanthropy today — bolstering our effectiveness as an organization.

Why Would You Want to Be a Fellow?

We wish to attract individuals who will find personal and/or professional reward from, and add value to, engaging in SVP’s work. Brainerd Fellows bring perspectives and insights that would otherwise have been lacking, thereby enriching the experience for all partners and the outcomes we achieve.

Fellows learn about capacity building, the nonprofit landscape, collective action, and systems change, while building their personal and professional network. SVP reserves space for Fellows to participate on committees. In addition,

Fellows participate in as many SVP activities as they wish. Activities primarily occur in and around the Seattle area during the workday and evenings. We estimate the time commitment to be 4 to 8 hours/month, depending on interests.

Opportunities include:

Serving on a grant committee

This is a six-month process with a group of 12-15 partners. Committee members learn about SVP's issue areas, the nonprofit landscape, how to evaluate grant proposals, and how to make group funding decisions.

Volunteer Consulting

SVP annually provides over 2,500 hours of pro-bono consulting to our investees in the following areas:

- Strategy and planning
- Management consulting
- Human resources
- Information technology
- Legal counsel
- Marketing, PR, communications
- Leadership development
- Financial management

Educational Workshops and Engagements

Fellows are welcome to attend any of the workshops, seminars and networking events SVP offers, addressing topics such as:

- Grantmaking
- Gaps in the education and environment landscape
- Volunteering
- Racial Equity
- Capacity Building

Criteria for Consideration:

The Brainerd Fellowship is intended for individuals who identify as people of color. We will consider the following specific criteria in our selection:

- You have a historical or emerging desire to make a significant contribution in your community. You see yourself continuing to grow that commitment in the years ahead.
- You are committed to undoing structural and systemic racism.
- You would not otherwise have the financial means to make the annual contribution to participate in SVP.

How Do You Apply?

Please submit a resume and answer the following questions within two pages:

1. *What are you seeking from your experience as a Brainerd Fellow? What do you hope to learn from the experience?*
2. *What does community involvement mean to you? What have you learned from service to your community?*
3. *SVP defines racial equity as "closing the gaps" so that race is no longer a predictor of one's success - please describe your experience with and/or commitment to racial equity as defined.*

Please e-mail your resume and application to fellowships@svpseattle.org. A team of staff members, current and, past Fellows will review applications and interview finalists. You will be notified of your standing by Friday, October 25. Feel free to reach out to us with any questions:

fellowships@svpseattle.org