



Community Solutions 2021 Virtual Practicum

Program Overview

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 CSP fellowship, including the community liaison component, will occur virtually. IREX has adapted the program to a virtual model that will provide innovative experience for cross-cultural exchange between community liaisons and fellows. Within this new model, community liaisons in collaboration with IREX, will implement **creative, virtual cross-cultural exchange activities** to foster mutual understanding. Community liaisons commitments are listed below.

Community Liaisons Commitment

- Arrange a virtual welcome event during the **Practicum Orientation Week**
- Host **monthly** cultural events for their **City Network** of fellows (a group of fellows grouped by U.S. host city location)
- Facilitate the building of **cross-cultural relationships and connections** within the City Network

Practicum Events

- **Partner Orientation** in August to prepare community liaisons for the fellowship
- **Practicum Orientation** the week of August 30 to host a virtual welcome event
- **Practicum Period** from September 6 to October 29 to host monthly cultural activities

Community Liaisons Role

Previously, community liaisons were responsible to help fellows settle into their host cities. With the virtual CSP fellowship, community liaisons will have the unique opportunity to **foster mutual understanding** through **virtual cultural events** and connecting fellows with one another and other U.S. partners, prompting fellows, in turn, to share aspects of their culture.

Virtual Cultural Activity Ideas

- **Cooking Lessons:** host a cooking lesson with city network to teach a traditional recipe from your city and encourage fellows to share recipes from their countries
- **City Tour:** share with fellows the main attractions of your city (museums, historic sites, parks, highlight small businesses in the area as well) and have fellows share main attractions in their cities
- **Literature/Art/Music:** host a type of virtual book club, where fellows read local poetry, experts of local authors, or share artwork or music from local artists – encourage fellows to do the same!
- **Holidays and Traditions:** create opportunities for fellows and U.S. partners to share their holidays and traditions to build cross-cultural understanding of the different holidays celebrated around the world.