



2026

Lowell L. Richards, III Fellowship for Leadership and Public Service
Hosted by Massachusetts Port Authority

Applications are being accepted for the 2026 Lowell L. Richards, III Fellowship. The deadline for completed applications is February 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

The Lowell L. Richards, III Fellowship for Leadership and Public Service honors Lowell L. Richards, a longtime member and Co-chair of Metro Housing's Board of Directors and recognizes his 29-year dedication to the organization's mission and his legacy of leadership and public service.

Fellowship experiences aim to encourage high performing graduate students to consider careers in public service. Lowell Richards personified the impact one individual can make to transform the footprint of a region, the outlook of a city, and the future for millions of individuals and families over generations.

Qualities like leadership, integrity, commitment, and ambition are desirable as well as aptitude for the urban planning field, and interest in public service. Applicants are judged according to the candidate's qualifications and how his/her skills, schedule, and goals fit with the fellowship.

The fellowship is administered by **Metro Housing|Boston, Inc.** Metro Housing is a leading nonprofit organization that addresses and prevents homelessness in Greater Boston by providing supports and services for families and individuals and helps them move along the pathway from homelessness to housing stability to economic security.

Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) hosts the fellowship in the Real Estate and Asset Management Department, which Richards led for 13 years as Massport's Chief Development Officer. The fellow will work on projects focused on real estate development, urban planning, and public realm programming and activation.

Massport is an independent public authority dedicated to connecting Massachusetts and New England to the world safely, securely, and efficiently. Massport operates three main business lines that are essential to the region's connectivity and economic vitality. **Aviation** operations involve the ownership and operation of Boston Logan International Airport, Worcester Regional Airport, and Hanscom Field, collectively accommodating millions of passengers and tons of cargo annually. **Maritime** operations encompass the Port of Boston, including Conley Container Terminal and Flynn Cruiseport Boston, facilitating international trade and cruise tourism serving Massachusetts and New England. Massport's **commercial and maritime Real Estate** operations leverage Massport properties to support the Port of Boston and economic growth and job creation. These business lines work in synergy to enhance transportation infrastructure, drive economic development, and support the communities we serve.

Fellowship Work Environment

The fellow will work on one or more projects to be determined with Massport as the fellowship host, and specific deliverables will be defined based on the selected candidate's specific skills and interests.

- The commitment period is between May and September, with the specific dates to be determined.
- Work is generally performed in a hybrid office setting (in office for a minimum of three days per week), Monday-Friday, between 8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Massport's primary administrative offices are located at One Harborside Drive in East Boston, and there may be some field assignments.
- Fellows will be quickly integrated into the RE&AM Department team and will be assigned meaningful research, analysis, and field work assignments that advance active Massport projects.
- Fellows will be assigned to a RE&AM Department staff person who will serve as a manager and mentor --both will work together early in the fellowship to prepare a contract for the summer to outline primary assignment, schedule and deliverable expectations.

Fellowship Compensation

This is a paid fellowship. The fellow will receive a total of \$10,000. Payments will be made two times per month. Metro Housing will work with the fellow and educational institution to arrange for class credit and additional compensation when desired and if appropriate.

Fellowship Dates

Candidates must be available and able to commit to fulfilling the requirements of the fellowship to be considered. Fellowship projects may be completed between May and September 2026 over ten to twelve weeks, up to 40 hours per week totaling approximately 400-480 hours. The fellowship will be completed as a full program.

Due Date and Instructions

Completed applications should be submitted via email and are due no later than February 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. to [Michael Aschkenasy, Director of Development and Communications](#). A final decision will be made in early March, and applicants will be notified on March 15, Lowell Richards' birthday.

Requirements

All applicants are required to complete the attached application form. The total application should not exceed five pages, including a letter of recommendation. You may submit your answers on a separate document. A completed application includes:

- Current resume
- Written recommendation from a non-family member adult — employer, teacher, coach, minister, counselor, or another individual
- Completed application form, including **BOTH** essays

Recommendations

Candidates are required to submit a written recommendation letter. Reference may be forwarded with the application or under separate cover. Letters should include answers to the following questions:

- How long have you known the candidate?
- What is your relationship with the candidate?
- Why would you recommend this candidate to receive this fellowship? Please include specific skills and personal qualities.



**Lowell L. Richards, III Fellowship for Leadership and Public Service
2026 Application**

General Information

Name: Email:

Cell Phone:

Educational Institution: Graduation Date:

Home Address:

City: State: Zip:

Part 1: Questions (please limit each answer to 200 words)

1. How did you learn about the Lowell L. Richards, III Fellowship?

2. What do you hope to gain from this fellowship?

3. What are your plans for the future?

Part 2: Essays

Please answer the following two questions. Each response should be 500 words or less. Candidates may submit these on a separate word document if needed.

1. What experiences (work, education, personal) have led you to become interested in economic development and public service?

2. Name three major issues currently facing the City of Boston or the Greater Boston region and the country. In your opinion, what are some effective ways to address those issues?