Job Announcement: Consultant Work for the Social Justice and the City Program, Issam Fares Institute

Scope: Affordable Housing Options for Beirut

Type of work: Part time/consultant

Period: August 1st - September 15th 2017 (7 weeks)

Application deadline: 22 July, 2017

Overview
The Social Justice in the City Program at AUB’s Issam Fares Institute is looking for a consultant knowledgeable in the field of housing to support an on-going applied research initiative exploring possible strategies to protect and expand Beirut’s stock of affordable housing.

The consultant’s main task will be to support (or join, depending on availability) a research group working on the formulation and development of an intervention strategy on the housing sector of the neighborhood of Mar Mikhael (Beirut) in parallel with legal and financial investigations. The intervention will be later debated with neighborhood residents in focus groups. Based on a clear analysis and understanding of on-going trends in Mar Mikhael (provided by SJC team), we expect the consultant to review similar case studies in other national contexts (i.e., desk review) and propose possible housing intervention strategies (including forms of interventions, types of regulations, and the institutional mechanisms that could be set in place to implement them). The consultant is not required to join the SJC fieldwork team in verifying and adapting the proposal s/he has made.
Responsibilities

Research tasks
- Review material provided by SJC team, meet, discuss, and understand fully the scope of the housing challenge in Mar Mikhael;
- Complete a desk review of similar case studies and interventions, extracting information about the type of policies, projects, actors, and institutional set up used to respond to similar conditions in other national contexts. If needed, consultant may interview actors and/or stakeholders in Lebanon or elsewhere who can provide information about the cases at hand to secure relevance to the project.
- Report and discuss these solutions with SJC team to support the translation of research findings to the ground;
- Write a 15-20 page final report on the recommendations, with full references and bibliographies.

Requirements
- MA in Urban Planning, Housing Studies, Sociology, Political Sciences, Economics, or any relevant field with proved research expertise in the field of housing;
- Fluency in English and Arabic;
- Past experience in similar work.

Please send your CV and cover letter to Ms. Dounia Salamé on ds65@aub.edu.lb before July 22nd, 2017.

About the project

This project is a small section of a larger research effort that has been conducted over the past two years by the Social Justice and the City Program in collaboration with a number of researchers. The project builds on previous research findings looking at the structures of housing provision and challenges to housing affordability in the neighborhood of Mar Mikhael (Beirut).

Through a mix of hands-on, participatory research involving on the one hand, legal and urban experts and policy-makers and on the other hand, neighborhood groups and residents, we seek to articulate a framework for possible intervention at the scales of a building, a block and/or a neighborhood that can account for the necessity to preserve an existing stock of affordable housing in the neighborhood, potentially within an urban heritage preservation strategy. The research findings will serve both as an advocacy tool for neighborhood dwellers and coalitions and a basis for replicable interventions in other areas of the city.
About SJC

The aim of the Issam Fares Institute's Social Justice and the City Program is to formulate an agenda for research that establishes a partnership between scholars, policy-makers, and activists in Lebanon (and beyond) working towards more inclusive cities. The program seeks to act as a platform where scholars, policy-makers, and activists can share reflections, experiences, and strategies by (i) documenting, analyzing and reflecting on ongoing urban processes affecting the organization and life of the city, (ii) sharing and validating research with activists, affected communities, and other social groups who are potentially interested in sharing both the acquired competence and the pool of research tactics, and (iii) supporting and informing initiatives that hope to influence change through debates, media, publications, and advocacy.

Learn more about SJC by clicking here:
https://www.aub.edu.lb/ifi/programs/social_justice/Pages/sj_city.aspx