**Coffee Sustainability Fellowship Application**

| Name |  |
| --- | --- |
| Email |  |
| Address |  |
| Phone Number |  |
| Date of Birth |  |
| Social Media Handles (optional) |  |

**About The Chain Collaborative**

The Chain Collaborative (TCC) strengthens capacities and co-creates opportunities for community-led change in the coffee sector. We build relationships with local leaders in coffee-growing regions, cultivate their project design and management skills, and foster the development of their enterprises. Our work allows global communities to combat intergenerational poverty and marginalization in the coffee sector on their own terms, and according to their own visions for change. In addition to our work with local leaders in coffee-producing communities, we also consult for mission-driven organizations and companies, train coffee professionals in sustainability through virtual coursework, and innovate across the value stream via specific collaborations.

**Sustainability Education with TCC**

We believe that a deeper understanding of sustainability in the coffee sector can inspire a greater focus on social, environmental, and economic justice. Through our educational offerings, our goal is to promote a shared understanding of the complexities of sustainability in the value stream, through both practical and theoretical education. As part of this mission, we offer the three course levels of the [Specialty Coffee Association (SCA)’s Coffee Sustainability Program](https://sca.coffee/education/programs/coffee-sustainability-program) to coffee and development professionals worldwide. In addition, we provide coursework independently and in collaboration with other institutions, such as [Coffee Knowledge Hub](https://coffeeknowledgehub.com/). To deliver education, we also partner with other trainers and supply chain actors, such as [A World in Your Cup](https://aworldinyourcup.com/).

**The TCC Coffee Sustainability Fellowship**

The TCC Coffee Sustainability Fellowship provides the opportunity for Fellows to work alongside TCC on our community-led development and consulting projects. Fellows will also learn how to engage in locally-led development in the coffee sector from an anti-top-down and anti-colonial perspective. In addition, Fellows have the opportunity to complete coursework with TCC, including all three levels—Foundation, Intermediate, and Professional—of the SCA Coffee Sustainability Program at no cost. Over the course of the Fellowship, Fellows are expected to work alongside TCC for 8-10 hours a week. Coursework is considered separate from these hours.

**Benefits to Fellow:**

* Work experience alongside TCC, our Community-Led Development Incubator participants, and other supply stream partners
* TCC mentorship throughout the program via meetings with TCC trainers, project staff, and project partners
* Recognition as a TCC Fellow via social media and other platforms
* Take coursework with TCC, including the Foundation, Intermediate, and Professional level of the SCA Coffee Sustainability Program at no cost (course fees and SCA exam fees are covered by the Fellowship).

**Program Requirements and Eligibility:**

* Ability to work 8-10 hours a week in support of TCC programs in collaboration with our partners during typical working hours (i.e., not only nights and weekends)
* Ability to offer a 10-month commitment from February 2025 through November 2025
* Demonstrated interest in and support of community-led development in the coffee sector
* Interest in completing coursework with TCC
* At least 21 years of age
* BA or equivalent preferred

**Application Process:**

* Send application by November 15, 2024 (complete all questions below and submit requested documents)
* Up to two rounds of remote video interviews with TCC staff in December 2024 and January 2025
* Final selection by January 20, 2025

**Application Questions**

Please answer all questions below, in this same document. Answers should be no more than 300 words in length.

1. How did you hear about the TCC Coffee Sustainability Fellowship? Be specific. What inspired you to apply for this Fellowship?
2. What do you think are the merits and shortcomings of the current conversation and practices surrounding sustainability in the coffee industry today?
3. How do you envision this Fellowship supporting your future career in or outside of coffee, if at all?
4. What parts of the coffee sector have you worked in, if at all? Name one sustainability challenge you see in each of the parts of the sector that you have worked in.
5. Do you have any international or remote working experiences? If so, what were they, and what were some of the most challenging aspects of the experiences? How did you overcome them?
6. What are the skills you think you could bring to this Fellowship and to TCC’s partners?
7. What type of volunteer work have you been involved in, or what networks have you been involved in, if any? Have you taken on leadership positions in those networks? (These volunteer opportunities or networks can be inside or outside of the coffee industry.)
8. Name one person you admire for their work in sustainability, inside or outside of the coffee industry, and explain why.

**Application References**

| **Type** | **Professional** |
| --- | --- |
| Name & Title |  |
| Contact information |  |
| Relationship to Fellow |  |

| **Type** | **Academic** |
| --- | --- |
| Name & Title |  |
| Contact information |  |
| Relationship to Fellow |  |

| **Type** | **Volunteer** |
| --- | --- |
| Name & Title |  |
| Contact information |  |
| Relationship to Fellow |  |

**Additional Required Documents**

* Resume or CV
* One letter of recommendation from an above reference

Send the completed application along with the additional documents requested above to [info@thechaincollaborative.org](mailto:info@thechaincollaborative.org) by November 15, 2025. Use the subject line “Your Name – TCC Coffee Sustainability Fellowship Application.” Should you have any questions about the Fellowship, you may address them to the same email.