



Youth Empowerment Performance Project

Arts Program: Teaching Artist Job Description

Mission

YEPP's vision is to end LGBTQ+ youth homelessness by uplifting the voices of those most impacted and supporting them with healing and leadership development through the arts.

The Arts Program is a variety of drop-in art-based workshops provided as a creative outlet for LGBTQ+ youth in the Chicago area. Offerings may include writing, ballet, modern dance, vogue, visual art, photography, fashion, film, and music among others. The goal of the Arts Program is to offer free, low-threshold opportunities for LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness to access a creative community space that will cultivate their artistic skills. In alignment with our five core frameworks, each workshop will also support participants in healing, building self-confidence and fostering community relationships.

Applicant Strengths and Qualities

A strong applicant will possess the following qualities:

- Excellent and reliable communication skills
- Experience in the performing and/or visual arts
- Strong teamwork ethic and collaboration skills.
- General understanding of YEPP's core frameworks: restorative justice, transformative justice, harm reduction, trauma-informed care, and popular education
- Ability to take initiative in a self-directive manner considering YEPP's frameworks.
- Great time management skills
- Experience working with youth
- LGBTQ+ identified folks highly encouraged to apply

Primary Tasks and Responsibilities

Teaching Artists will:

- Develop a lesson plan that incorporates creative skill-building, community building, and trauma-informed frameworks
- Bring all levels of styles and techniques to share with the space
- Incorporate interactive learning & opportunities to share work developed in the workshop
- Facilitate a group of up to 10-20 young people (ages 18-29)
- Redirect participants to the group agreements & YEPP values when necessary
- Create a Brave Space for expression, creativity, and growth
- Consult with the YEPP CHAT (Community, Healing, Accountability & Transformation) Team in the event there is a situation that calls for us to consider an accountability process among group members and/or YEPP staff.

- Attend 1:1 meetings with the Youth Programs Coordinator to develop lesson plans, ask any questions or raise concerns.

Additional Requirements

All staff, interns and volunteers are expected to uphold the values, frameworks and mission of YEPP. All staff, interns and volunteers must have an overall commitment to serving the participants of YEPP, and to contributing to a positive, respectful and accepting environment.

Teaching artists are asked to commit to a minimum of 3 months. If you are in search of lower threshold opportunities to volunteer, please refer to our website for other ways to get involved.

Payment

Teaching Artists for the Arts Program are hired on a volunteer/pro-bono basis. YEPP is unable to provide stipends at this time, yet we do recognize the importance of compensating artists for their work. In exchange, we are willing to discuss a bartering system that offers YEPP as a resource for TA's within the programs and services that we currently provide.

Application & Interview Process

Applications: Arts Program applications open in December of each year. The application deadline for the 2020 season is **Friday, January 17th**. Requirements are:

- Complete application form (available through our website)
- Submit an artistic work sample

If you feel led, it is optional to submit a resume and cover letter. **Please email all application materials to Black@WeSayYepp.com**

Interviews: You will receive an email from Black@WeSayYepp.com by Tuesday, January 21st in the event that we would like to move forward with an interview. Interviews will be held individually at the YEPP space (835 W Addison St.) and must be scheduled within operation hours of 10am-6pm. If you are unable to come to the space or schedule within that time frame, we will do our best to make accommodations accordingly.

Selections: Teaching Artists will be selected and notified by Monday, February 10th. Once you are selected as a TA, you will be required to attend a Volunteer Training in February (specific date and time TBD based on availability).