



sixth street community center

Open Role: Part-Time Youth Program Educator, Climate & Garden Education

Program Summary

Since 1984, Sixth Street Community Center (SSCC) has provided after school and summer programs to ensure that low-income neighborhood children and teens have an equal opportunity to excel. In 2012 in response to the deepening climate crisis, SSCC revamped its program to focus on urban sustainability, urban farming, recycling and composting as strategies to begin addressing this crisis and its impact on the everyday lives of kids and adults. Sixth Street Youth Program utilizes creativity and the arts as a tool to engage youth in these topics. In 2019-20 (before the onset of COVID-19) the Sixth Street after school and summer programs offered 180 children- 70 percent youth of color- hands-on workshops in these areas, a climate justice curriculum and tools for youth based-activism alongside on-going community outreach and engagement activities. Sixth Street Youth are regularly engaged in the organizing work that SSCC is involved in locally such as anti-displacement & anti-gentrification campaigns, public land-use advocacy, park/garden preservation, opposition to fracking and fossil-fuel expansion and campaigns that advocate for people-centered, sustainable development. Using an age-appropriate approach, the program explores these and other environmental issues and fosters a critical lens on the root causes of the climate crisis-examining the underlying system of racial and extractive capitalism that perpetuates climate destruction.

Job Summary

Sixth Street Community Center (SSCC) is seeking a passionate, mission driven team-builder to fill the role of a Youth Program Educator to work within our Sixth Street Youth Program (SSYP). SSYP is an out of school time program that offers NYC youth quality after school and summer workshops in an intimate class setting. With a limited enrollment to 25 students per day, each child receives thoughtful guidance and support that is needed to foster their individual and creative growth.

Our program is committed to developing strong community, creative skills, mindfulness, and social and environmental awareness among our youth. Our mission is to cultivate a warm and inclusive atmosphere that honors each student's unique strengths. We primarily serve youth local to the Lower East Side and provide holistic enrichment in visual and performing arts, urban gardening community explorations, mutual aid work and climate justice.

Job Description

Working in collaboration with the Youth Program Team, the Youth Educator will be responsible for developing and teaching workshops in our after school program and for assisting in ensuring that daily SSYP operations run smoothly.

Responsibilities include the following areas of work:

- Plan/Develop and facilitate kid-centric workshops that fall within gardening, cooking/CSA, environmental justice, environmental sustainability, racial and social justice, food justice, exploring topics like gentrification, community, anti-capitalism and Ecosocialism.
- Attend weekly staff meetings.
- Take initiative to support other staff or step into a leadership role when needed.
- Program set-up: tables, chairs, posters, snack, any workshop materials needed for the day
- Perform school pick-ups (all within a short walking distance from our community center) and ensure all students arrive to program safely. Engage with students during this time, making them feel safe, comfortable and happy!
- Assist with bringing students on local trips to partner organizations, parks, gardens, galleries, museums.
- Communicate with parents as needed about program-related matters or their child's behavior.
- During homework and snack time: support students if needed with getting homework done or staying focused. Engage students one on one.
- Take students to local parks and gardens and supervise safe play.
- Program cleanup: put away chairs and break down tables. Clean up after workshops. Putting trash/compost out. Help us achieve low waste at the program and center.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree and/or 2+ years experience working with youth (preferably ages 5-10).
- Experience teaching workshops and/or facilitating groups.
- Experience working in a community-based setting or doing community building work.
- Expertise or Strong interest in any of the following areas: Visual Arts, Urban Sustainability, Climate/Environmental Justice, Urban Gardening, Cooking, Food Justice, Food Access and/or Activism.
- Strong desire/excitement for working with kids and developing building connections with them. Must enjoy spending time with kids.
- Know how to communicate to kids in a kind and compassionate way.
- Strong interest in education and/or youth development.
- Strong commitment to social, racial and economic justice.
- Strong interest in helping grow our programs and community at Sixth Street Community Center.
- Excellent written & verbal communication skills required. Spanish speaking/bilingual a plus.
- Excellent people skills. Sense of humor is a plus.
- Must be a team player, yet able to work independently and be self starting, self directing and have excellent time management.

BIPOC local to/familiar with the Lower East Side strongly encouraged to apply.

Pay: \$20-\$22/hr depending on experience.

Hours: March 1 to June 26: Monday - Friday from 2 pm to 4pm. Select days 2 - 6:30 pm,

some days where lesson planning or staff meetings might be required to start around 12:30. Approximately 10-15 hours/week.

July 8 to August 16: Monday - Friday from 8:15 am to 3:30 pm. ~35-38 hrs/wk

September to end of June: Monday - Friday from 2 to 6:30 pm. ~22.5 hrs/wk

All interested candidates should send their resume and a short introduction about themselves and why they believe they would be a good fit for the job to Youth Program Co-ordinators youth@sixthstreetcenter.org and cc' SSCC Deputy Director, Jen Chanttanapichate—jen@sixthstreetcenter.org. Any applications without a cover letter will not be considered.