

Job Description

Position: Outreach Specialist

Reports to: Executive Director

Position open until at least May 25th but may be extended.

Perennial is an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on applicants based on race, color, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, faith, disability, age, or veteran status.

Perennial was founded as an accessible arts + sustainability organization. Our mission is not just to divert waste, but to build a creative culture of sustainability where discarded objects can be transformed. We believe that learning creative skills and having space and time to explore them is a powerful and healing experience. Our Outreach program seeks to empower women and other under resourced communities with both skills and confidence. This program has been an important way for Perennial to reach underserved audiences who may themselves feel discarded. It is important to our organization to make sure the creative culture we are building is inclusive and meets the needs of folks with diverse backgrounds and a spectrum of artistic experience.

Program overview:

Since 2012, Perennial has partnered with local social service agencies to bring creative reuse workshops to women in transition, including homeless women, former prisoners, survivors of domestic violence, and sex trafficking, and refugee and immigrant populations. In 2022, Perennial will work with four – six area agencies to teach close to 200 women in over 1,000 hours of arts-based sustainability education. In addition Perennial will continue to build meaningful community partnerships to serve under resourced neighborhoods and increase education and awareness around environmental racism through the Green Neighbors program.

Currently there are three components to the Perennial Outreach program:

- *ReCreate DIY Workshops:* Once-a-month creative reuse workshops at partner sites. Workshops are typically 1-1.5 hours long and teach a new DIY skill paired with a salvaged or reclaimed material.
- *ReCreate Studio:* Once a week on Wednesdays from 1-5pm, Perennial's workshop is open to clients from the DIY Workshops. During this time, participants work on self-identified creative reuse projects with the assistance of Perennial's staff.
- *Green Neighbors* A minimum of 4 workshops a year provided free of charge in collaboration with community partners

Position Summary:

We are looking for someone with a background in art therapy, social work, or several years of experience providing programming to under-resourced populations. A passion for reuse is required. Just as we teach people the skills they need to transform discarded items we know this program gives folks tools at transitional points in their lives to go through their own transformations, gaining confidence and working to heal from past trauma. This is a unique opportunity for someone interested applying art therapy practices in community-based setting.

While there is no specific artistic discipline required for a successful candidate an eagerness to learn new techniques and teach is important. Some of the disciplines women engage with at Perennial include sewing, knitting, woodworking, glass working, candle making, paper arts and more. A passion for creative reuse (similar to upcycling) is needed in any discipline. Resourcefulness, specifically working with discarded and salvaged materials in beautiful ways, is core to all of Perennial's programming.

Responsibilities

The Outreach Program Specialist works directly with Perennial's Outreach partners to offer creative reuse workshops. The Outreach Program Specialist develops and implements monthly creative lessons for the DIY Workshop program and works one-on-one with clients to assist them in the successful completion of their reuse projects during the Studio program.

Specifically, the Outreach Program Specialist will:

- Maintain an inclusive and caring space for all participants to feel welcome and confident to create.
- Provide client support during Perennial's Outreach Studio Program. Assisting with clients' creative and personal needs.
- Develop lesson plans, prepare materials, and teach monthly DIY Workshops with the assistance of a contracted teaching artist.
- Maintain regular communication with partner agencies, which includes workshop reminders, client updates, and program coordination.
- Record qualitative and quantitative data from all of Perennial's outreach programs.
- Maintain positive and professional relationships with clients and agency partners.
- Deal with challenges with participants that arise in a professional and confidential manor.
- Develop organizational systems to increase cooperation with other programs when using a shared space.
- Regularly document and share program successes through pictures, blog posts, and coordination with the executive director for grant purposes.

There is also potential for program growth which will require:

- Research and strategize partner growth together with the Executive Director.
- Provide support for grant opportunities related to the Outreach Program.
- Streamline processes to ensure impactful work and growth during studio times.
- Work to increase both attendance and retention.
- Build leadership opportunities for women who transition out of their partner agencies.

Required Qualifications:

1-2 years of experience working with underserved populations, specifically those who have experienced trauma

1-2 years of teaching experience on any specific or a variety of artistic disciplines

Strong conflict management skills

Commitment to making creativity and sustainability accessible

Passion for reuse and upcycling

Experience creating new processes to increase efficiency, communication, and organization

Comfortable managing programs and communication independently

Preferred Qualifications:

A degree or background in art therapy or social work
Knowledge of best practices for trauma informed care
Experience building or expanding a non-profit program

Compensation:

\$16 an hour, approximately 75 hours a month

Work Schedule and Agreement:

While hours spent on administration and program planning can be flexible it is important to have availability on Wednesdays to facilitate the ReCreate studio program. As the program currently stands flexibility to run partner workshops during the 4th week of the month is also needed.

To Apply

Please send a resume and an introductory email or one-page cover letter that mentions:

- One example of creative reuse (artistic upcycling) that you have created and/or taught
- Highlight any teaching experience and what populations you have served
- Why you are interested in the position

To Katie Carpenter, Perennial Executive Director at katie@perennialstl.org

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