

## Greenway Volunteer Program

### Art Ambassador

#### Position Overview

The Conservancy is dedicated to bringing innovative and contemporary art to the Greenway through free, temporary exhibitions. We are committed to engaging people in meaningful experiences, interactions and dialogue with art and each other, as well as giving artists unique opportunities to exhibit bold new work that consider the possibilities of 21<sup>st</sup> century Boston.

In 2018 we will be featuring public art based on the curatorial concept *GLOW*. The signature exhibition will be eight vintage neon signs from Massachusetts businesses (circa 1914-1965). Each handcrafted piece serves as an illuminated monument to the neighborhoods, businesses and everyday lives of our recent past. The signs will draw the curious during the day and light up the sky at night. These historic signs will join commissioned light art by contemporary artists, helping bridge the gap between popular and fine art. A new work by Luftwerk will transform a portion of The Greenway



by night with a bright and bold site-specific installation on a grand scale; and Somerville artist Anne Lilly's commission will delve deeper into the nostalgia invoked by the neon signs by utilizing mirrors to explore loss and memory, as viewers experience the appearance and disappearance of their reflection. Through on-site didactic panels and conversations with Arts Ambassadors, *GLOW* aims to illuminate the evolution of our urban landscape, our sense of place, and our collective and individual identities.

Art Ambassadors interact with visitors, providing guidance, discussion and information about our current art installations, contemporary art practices, and The Greenway. Ambassadors help the public better understand the artworks throughout the park system, helping to inspire our many visitors. We are looking for people who are passionate about public art and public spaces and who are willing to work with a team to create meaningful experiences for park patrons.

#### Responsibilities

- Acting as a friendly, knowledgeable and approachable presence at our art exhibitions and events
- Engaging visitors with on-site activities and information
- Completing measurable observations and visual reporting to aid public art reports
- Prompt and professional communication with Conservancy staff, attendance at trainings, and understanding of the provided information about The Greenway and our art exhibitions
- Occasionally providing on-site support during events related to our public art program

#### Qualifications

- Interest in public art, art history, contemporary art, community engagement, public spaces, informal education, visitor communication, urban livability, or related fields.
- Excellent communication skills and a willingness to engage with park visitors; experience working with a range of ages and knowledge of other languages are a plus.
- Friendly, approachable, and professional demeanor and a commitment to providing a positive experience for our park guests.

- Ability to work outside in varying climates, to move equipment including a rolling kiosk and program materials, and to stand for an extended period of time.
- Ability to commit to a minimum of 6 hours per month; preference is given to those who can commit to the entire season (3+ months), though shorter-term commitments (2+ months) can be negotiated.
- All volunteers must complete a general orientation as well as specialized and periodic trainings on our exhibitions, and must follow our volunteer policies at all times.
- Must have email and internet access, as this will be the primary means of scheduling and communication.

### **Benefits**

- Be a part of a great team of Art Ambassadors and interact with Greenway staff and partners, potentially including artists, performers, and Boston arts professionals.
- Participate in the benefits of the Greenway volunteer program, including a summer Volunteer and Member picnic, a t-shirt, special gifts, and other training and event opportunities.
- Exclusive opportunities to visit local art centers, at times with the guidance of the Greenway Public Art team and potentially other arts professionals and curators in the Boston area.
- Further develop valuable visitor service, public presentation, and arts education skills as part of an innovative and impactful public art program.
- Opportunity to gain college credit and/or fulfill community service requirements, when applicable.
- Opportunities to develop new relationships and new networks.

### **Details**

This position reports to Karla Noboa, Volunteer and Programs Coordinator, and works very closely with Lucas Cowan, our Public Art Curator and Sheila Novak, the Public Art Project Manager. Volunteers work in set shift schedules, providing coverage during busy times of the week. A consistent presence of Art Ambassadors allows The Greenway to consistently engage the public, share information about the artwork, and provide schedules for activities near our exhibitions. Additionally, there may be special shifts that will support special events or performances.

Art Ambassadors will serve from late May through late September. Shifts will predominantly occur at the Neon installation in the Wharf District. Shifts are scheduled for Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11a-2p and Friday nights from 5:30p-7:30p. We require a minimum commitment of six hours per month for volunteers in the program. We are also willing to work with volunteers who would like to take on a larger number of shifts and create a professional experience that would be suitable for college credit.

Volunteers will be provided with and asked to wear a t-shirt identifying them as an Art Ambassador. Otherwise we ask that volunteers wear casual but professional clothing appropriate for the outdoors.

### **About the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy**

The Conservancy is the designated steward of the Rose Kennedy Greenway, a mile-and-a-half of contemporary parks in the heart of Boston that connect people and the city with beauty and fun. The non-profit Conservancy maintains, programs, and improves the Greenway on behalf of the public and in partnership with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### **Application Process**

Recruitment for 2018 will open in February and volunteers will be interviewed starting in March. Training sessions will happen in the spring and early summer and preference is given to volunteers that can commit to these. To apply, please fill out the online Art Ambassador application available on our website. [www.rosekennedygreenway.org/volunteer](http://www.rosekennedygreenway.org/volunteer)