

Greenway Volunteer Program

Park Ambassador

Join the Greenway Park Ambassador program for a fun season engaging with our visitors by discussing and gathering perspectives about our contemporary public art program, facilitating play, and leading tours for curious park-goers. This is a dynamic position that provides opportunities to create enriching experiences for adults, families, and kids alike. Park Ambassadors help make The Greenway a favorite place to gather, play, unwind and explore in the heart of Boston.

Position Overview

The Greenway is a contemporary public park brimming with possibilities. A downtown urban oasis, The Greenway hosts over 400 free public events each year, presents bold and exciting contemporary public art exhibits, and provides enriching experiences and connections for the community. The Greenway Conservancy, the non-profit responsible for the management and care of The Greenway, is committed to engaging visitors in this communal space where all are welcome. The Park Ambassador program is a unique opportunity for volunteers to support and learn from an innovative, world class park.

Park Ambassadors interact with visitors, providing engaging experiences and connections in tandem with our Public Art and Play programs. Park Ambassadors encourage dialogue and gain perspectives on our seasonal art installations, contemporary art practices, and The Greenway as a whole. Park Ambassadors are also critical to engaging families and our youngest of visitors, guiding activities and events through the use of our Art Cart, Book Cart and loosely-structured play activities. Applicants and returning Park Ambassadors with a deep knowledge of The Greenway and/or with previous experience leading tours at local institutions also have the opportunity to lead tours for the public to discuss our history, our programming and our current art installations.

We are looking for people who are passionate about public art, playability, urban design, community outreach, childhood education and public spaces; who are willing to work with a team to create meaningful experiences for park patrons of all ages.

Responsibilities

- Act as a friendly, knowledgeable and approachable presence throughout The Greenway, at our art exhibitions, play sessions, and events.
- Engage visitors of all ages with on-site activities. Certain play activities are geared towards children and families. There are occasionally opportunities to design and implement activities for children.



- Attend several pre-season trainings to gain familiarity with The Greenway's history and the Conservancy's current programs, and art exhibitions. Read update email emails from Conservancy staff and respond promptly when needed.
- 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 accommodated.
 - Shifts are available Wednesday-Sunday at various times, but generally 11a-2p and 5:30-7:30p. Shift focus will vary, allowing volunteers to choose areas that are of interest to them.
- Conduct measurable observations and visual reporting to aid in grant reporting.
- Tour leader applicants are asked to complete additional training, to assist with pre-tour communications with attendees, and to report tour attendance and observations.

Qualifications

- Interest in public art, art history, contemporary art, community engagement, childhood education, public spaces, informal education, playable cities, visitor communication, urban livability, placemaking or related fields.
- Experience or interest in working with the public, including a wide range of ages.
- Any level of proficiency in other languages is a plus, as we frequently encounter Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Spanish speakers at our play sessions, and a range of visitors from all over the world.
- Friendly, approachable, professional demeanor and a commitment to providing a positive experience for our park guests.
- Ability to work outside in fluctuating climates, move equipment less than 50lbs, including a rolling kiosk and program materials, and to stand for an extended period of time.
- Must have email, phone and internet access.

Benefits

- Be a part of a great team of Park Ambassadors and interact with Greenway staff and partners, including artists, performers, and Boston arts professionals.
- Receive special offers as volunteer hours accumulate. Potential offers vary from visiting local art institutions to meeting artists.
- Opportunity to gain college credit and/or fulfill community service requirements, when applicable.
- Potential opportunity to craft and execute a research project.
- Opportunities to create new relationships and new networks in a fast paced and fun environment.

Details

Park Ambassadors work in set shift schedules, providing coverage during pre-determined and scheduled times of the week to work towards consistency and be able to better spread the word about our program. Volunteers will be provided with and asked to wear a t-shirt identifying them as an Park Ambassador.

Park Ambassadors will serve from Memorial Day through Labor Day with some opportunities to help at events or play sessions outside of this main season; shift schedules may change depending on program offerings and feedback and are subject to extreme weather. We require a minimum commitment of 6 hours per month, but will work with volunteers who would like to take on a larger number of shifts or create an experience that would be suitable for college credit.

Park Ambassadors will be trained to run our mobile Art Cart station, and our Play sessions in Chinatown Park and the Wharf District Parks, You will have the choice to sign-up for shifts that work with both our art program and our play program; This volunteer position includes the opportunity to lead tours of The Greenway and to assist with running Youth Adventure Day programming.

Application Process

Recruitment for the 2019 season will open in February and interviews will start in March, with rolling admissions into the spring. Training sessions will begin in late spring and early summer. To apply, please submit a [Park Ambassador application](#).