

Children's Discovery Museum Garden Ecology Program Developer

Status: Full-time, Exempt
Supervisor: Associate Director of Education

Summary:

The Garden Ecology Program Developer oversees programming and maintenance within our 27,500sf garden and nature-play space, *Bill's Backyard: Bridge to Nature*. Supporting child development and building empathy through unstructured nature play, Bill's Backyard offers layers of discovery including learning about local ecology, seasonal and cultural vegetable planting, and sustainable outdoor practices. The Garden Ecology Program Developer will be responsible for developing facilitated nature-based science and art activities, acquiring and managing materials, planting and maintaining vegetable beds, and training part-time museum staff to facilitate activities and explorations in *Bill's Backyard*. The Garden Ecology Program Developer will also collaborate with museum-based youth programs and community partners to leverage *Bill's Backyard* as a site for broader garden-based and environmental learning opportunities.

Responsibilities:

This is a highly visible position, especially with external communities responsible for achieving goals and results, and focused primarily on project and/or program execution while managing impact on financials. Expectations and experience are described below:

- Develop innovative interactive programming for CDM's outdoor play space that provides opportunities for young children and their families to connect with nature, play in an unstructured and beautiful natural environment, and learn about local habitats and creatures;
- Design nature and garden-based activities to encourage engagement with plants, habitats, sustainable food practices, home gardening, composting, and connecting the Museum's café to the Garden;
- Provide ongoing training for part-time staff and volunteers who facilitate activities in *Bill's Backyard*, including child development and environmental information about the relevance and learning goals of activities, coordinated with Floor Supervisors;
- Plan and maintain seasonal vegetable beds for education and tastings;
- Oversee and continue to develop the physical site of the Museum's garden and nature play area including operations and maintenance, budgeting, and long-term sustainability;
- Manage materials for hands-on activities including procurement, preparation, and storage in collaboration with the Exhibits Department and the Museum's Materials Coordinator;
- Develop culturally relevant activities in conjunction with Museum-wide community events and coordinated with other facilitated spaces in the Museum;
- Identify and develop content connections to Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards, and create curricular materials for onsite school programs and garden-based learning;
- Develop youth-focused initiatives to support *Bill's Backyard* including service learning and volunteer opportunities, after school programming, and garden planting;
- Create and sustain partnerships with regional community-based organizations with similar goals (urban ecology, garden, environment) to leverage services, realize mutual benefits, and expand programming;
- Departmental duties as required, including participation as Education Department representative on cross-departmental teams;
- Fulfill other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience:

Any combination of education or experience providing the required knowledge and skills is qualifying. Minimum employment standards are:

- Bachelor's degree, preferably in environmental studies, science and/or education
- Experience implementing hands-on gardening and/or science curriculum for diverse ages
- Strong commitments to early childhood education, inquiry-based learning, and youth development
- Excellent communication skills and ability to work with a diverse audience and staff
- Ability to build professional relationships within the community
- Ability to work outdoors lifting and carrying materials and equipment up to 30 pounds
- Spanish speaking skills are beneficial but not required

This job description should not be construed to imply that these requirements are the exclusive standards of the position. Incumbents will follow any other instructions, and perform any other related duties, as may be required by his or her supervisor. Children's Discovery Museum is an at-will, equal opportunity employer.