

Teaching Artist Job Description

Organization Summary

The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company's (USTC) mission is to mentor, educate, and enrich youth in under-resourced communities through the creation of collaborative original theatre. Our mission powers our vision of a world where all youth are given the opportunities and support they need to succeed; and to be heard, valued and respected. We strive to be a bridge that helps youth make positive life choices.

Founded in the wake of the 1992 LA Uprising, USTC has grown from a small, volunteer-led youth intervention program into a recognized leader in arts education, youth development, mentorship, and community building.

The Unusual Suspects is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion and strongly encourages people of color, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those with protected class backgrounds to apply. We value the individuals that we hire and look forward to creating a positive, diverse work environment for all identities.

Job Summary

Teaching Artist (TA) lead programming in our schools and afterschool hours, community centers, youth detention centers, parks, and other sites. TAs play a critical role in the success of our programs, taking on a variety of responsibilities within our programming including; facilitator, mentor, coach, actor and teacher.

TAs should have established experience in the area of education and/or theatre arts (playwriting, directing, acting, etc.) and be passionate about teaching youth in public school settings, community centers, parks, and detention centers. Our team of TA's are dedicated to creating a safe learning environment, modeling positive behavior, and supporting our participants' accomplishments. Working hand-in-hand with the Program's team, school administrators, teachers, and other partners.

The Teaching Artist role is a non-exempt, part-time, temporary position and will report to the Program Director.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Brings theatre to life and cultivates a creative space for youth to find their voice individually and as an ensemble.
- Implements US arts integrated curriculum and or create lessons to support social and emotional development through theatre arts instruction.
- Collaborates with Programs team, US Teaching Artists, and other US staff.
- Proficiency in one or all of the following theatre arts disciplines; acting, improvisation, playwriting, movement, vocal production or technical theatre production.
- Allows students to "share out" what they have learned and reflect on their learning at the beginning and end of each workshop.
- Participates in pre and post-planning meetings with co-teaching artists, US staff, and or volunteers.
- Documents and collects workshop attendance, agendas, successes and challenges for each session and turns in deliverables weekly.
- Reports on an on an ongoing basis to Programs team any workshop concerns including any issues with lessons, learning, attendance, and the facility.
- Is committed to on-going professional development as an arts practitioner and educator, and to participate in US community events.
- Adheres to US guidelines & policies in regards to mandated reporting.
- Performs other duties as needed.

Desirable Skills & Qualifications:

- A Bachelor degree (BA, BS, etc.) in a related field is preferred, but not required.
- A minimum of (2) years of working experience in a similar role.
- Experience or interest in theatre and youth arts education is a plus.
- Cultural competency to work with individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- Foster open communication within and among diverse groups.
- Work in a team environment with minimal supervision.
- Ability to work independently, be flexible, and manage multiple priorities.
- Proficient computer skills and with Microsoft/Google Suite.
- Experience with public speaking and presentations.
- Experience working with Neurodiverse participants of all ages.
- Fluency in Spanish is highly desirable.
- Must have reliable transportation.

Personal Qualifications:

Strong commitment to social change through community empowerment and the arts. Personal values align with the mission, vision and values of the Unusual Suspects organization.

Physical Requirements & Work Environment:

Must be able to lift 30 pounds. Must be flexible working in a fast-paced, non-profit environment. This position works primarily at program sites. Must be willing to use personal equipment such as cell phone and laptop/tablet when working remotely. Must be willing to undergo clearances/ background checks for school and probation camp sites.

The information presented above indicates the general nature and level of work expected of employees in this position. It is not designed to contain, or to be interpreted as, a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, qualifications and objectives required of employees assigned to this job.

Salary & Schedule

- Non-exempt, part-time, temporary position.
- \$55/hr Teaching rate, \$20/hr Training rate, \$18/hour Planning rate.
- Position is expected to work 10-20 hours weekly, based on schedule and availability.
- Candidates must be open to working a flexible schedule, including some evenings and weekends.

Equal Employment Opportunity

The Unusual Suspects provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or genetics. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation and training.

Apply Today!

Email cover letter & resume to jobs@theunusalsuspects.org. Include in the subject line of your email: Teaching Artist position. In your cover letter, tell us about your Teaching Artist experience, classroom management style, and your particular area(s) of expertise. Share any other information you deem relevant. No phone calls please.

Seeking to fill multiple openings ASAP! Accepting materials until all positions are filled.