

STANLEY ARTS

Title:

Herb garden volunteers

Purpose:

We're looking for volunteers to shape a heritage herb kitchen, inspired by everything from the kitchen plants used in Edwardian times when Stanley Arts was opened to the Asian, Caribbean and African seasonings which are popular in local cooking today.

The project will run on weekends between May - September and will give volunteers a chance to learn about gardening, connect with their community and share their experiences of food and history. This will be part of our new heritage engagement programme which we're launching to celebrate the people, past and present, who have shaped South Norwood as we approach our 120th anniversary at Stanley Arts.

Volunteers are invited to join us over a series of sessions which will include researching the history of kitchen gardens, taking cuttings and sowing seeds, supporting a community gardening event and maintaining the herb garden over the summer.

No prior experience is required to participate. Volunteers will receive training during an induction day and sessions will be led by a member of staff from Stanley Arts. From mid July, volunteers are welcome to come and tend the herb garden independently although support will also continue to be available.

Tasks:

- Research into the history of herbs in British cooking from the Edwardian era to the present day and how we can increase biodiversity and habitats for insects
- Supporting gardening by sowing seeds, taking cuttings and planting herbs
- Support community event where the public will be invited to plant herbs and learn about biodiversity and the history of herbs from your research
- Regular watering and weeding of the herb garden on a regular basis

Location:

Stanley Arts, 12 South Norwood Hill, London, SE25 6AB

We will be outdoors for a large portion of each session (weather dependent)

Time Commitment:

This volunteering opportunity will run between May - September 2022. To participate in the programme, we'd like volunteers to attending the following dates:

- Saturday 28th May, 1 - 5pm for induction training
- Saturday 4th June, approximately 3 hours, timings TBC for research and plant prepping
- Sunday 19th June, approximately 3 hours, timings TBC for plant prepping

- Saturday 2 July, approximately 5 hours, timing TBC for community engagement event

Between July - September there will be a rota so that volunteers regularly come in to water and weed the plants. This is likely to be for a 1 hour slot but times and dates are flexible.

Support and Supervision:

The volunteer manager for this role will be Moa, the Heritage Engagement Manager who will lead the volunteering sessions.

Zoo Co Theatre Company will also be delivering elements of the project and may lead aspects of some sessions.

Skills/Experience Required:

No prior experience is required to participate. We would however welcome applications from people with the following characteristics:

- Enthusiastic about trying something new and meeting people
- Reliable and keen to get involved
- Keen to share their own experience of gardening, cooking or food history
- An interest in plants or biodiversity

Selection Procedure:

If you would like to apply, please email moa@stanleyarts.org by 10pm on Thursday 19th May answering the following questions in no more than one paragraph per answer:

- What interests you about the role?
- What do you hope to gain from taking part?
- Why would you be a good fit for the role?
- Are you available for all of the dates outlined above?

If we think you are a suitable candidate for the role, you'll be invited to a 30 minute phone call to discuss your application further. Please include your preferred time for this call in your application. All applicants will be contacted via email by 5pm on Friday 20th May.

Training:

The induction training will give an overview of the history of the building and an introduction to the heritage engagement programme. Initial training will also consider the different audiences you will engage with by covering safeguarding, health and safety, inclusion and accessibility.

Benefits to the Volunteer:

- Expenses paid for up to £10 a day
- 10% discount in the cafe
- Behind the scenes tour of Stanley Arts
- Support with building skills and experience for career development

Named contact

Moa Taylor Hodin, Heritage Engagement Manager

Moa@stanleyarts.org