

Grounded Strategies Design and Placemaking Mentor

Overview

Grounded Strategies is a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit organization working with communities to restore vacant and neglected land. We are seeking a Mentor to support the Design and Placemaking Program Staff in their landscape design and community placemaking work. Our skillset includes:

- Applying antiracist landscape architecture, community planning, and urban design best practices to neighborhood scale vacant land projects;
- Executing and refining Grounded's community co-design and engagement processes across programming areas, including fee-for-service work;
- Providing technical support to community-led vacant lot projects, including scaled drawings, landscape plans, site stewardship plans;
- Strategic partner engagement and client management; and
- Report writing, advocacy, and public education activities.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Aid in the development of the 2022 Design and Placemaking Business Plan and Fee-for-Service Program at once-weekly meetings with the Project Manager of Design and Placemaking.
- Provide insight into overall Design and Placemaking program function at once-monthly meetings with the Design and Placemaking Team.
- Provide insight into program budgets, planning and project execution.
- Read and suggest edits to program materials.
- Provide feedback regarding Grounded's community co-design and engagement processes on the basis of personal and professional experience.

General Responsibilities:

- Suggest ways to enhance efficiency and productivity of procedures and people.
- Ensure program/project operations and activities adhere to legal guidelines and internal policies.

Requirements:

- Applicant must be licensed to practice architecture in the state of Pennsylvania.
- Applicant must have at least 5 years experience working with and/or running an architecture firm.
- Understanding of project/program management techniques and methods.
- Excellent communication and organization and skills.
- An analytical mindset with great problem-solving abilities.
- Work well with people in various communities, institutional and governmental organizations.
- Commitment to Grounded's anti-racism pledge and framework.
- Proficient computer skills, especially using Microsoft Suite and Google Suite.
- Some experience with data analysis, reporting, and budgeting.

The ideal candidate has worked through vacant and neglected land processes across Allegheny County, and is familiar with Pittsburgh's open space and land recycling initiatives, including the Adopt-A-Lot program, PGH Land Bank, and soil remediation programs.

Personal Qualifications:

- Personal values align with the vision and values of Grounded Strategies.

Time Commitment and Compensation:

1 year contract beginning February 14, 2022.

\$5,000 stipend to be distributed in 10 installments beginning March 1st, 2021.

5 hours / week:

- meetings once-weekly with the Project Manager of Design and Placemaking (1hr)
- meetings once-monthly with the Design and Placemaking Team (1hr 30 mins)
- Research, communication and task-completion time (2hrs 30 mins)