

WHAT WILL THE HARVEST BE?

a new kind of garden

VACANCY: GARDEN CLUB LEADER
Abbey Gardens, Baker's Row, London E15

This is an exciting opportunity to play a pivotal education and maintenance role in a unique new public garden

Mid-May – Nov. 2009 / Freelance temp. contract
Fee £5120, inclusive of expenses for circa 12 hrs per week
(Potential to merge post with Garden Website Maintenance role
Fee £1000, inclusive of expenses for circa 2.5hrs per week *)

PROJECT SUMMARY

"What will the Harvest Be?" is an ambitious artist's commission from Newham Council & the Friends of Abbey Gardens (FOAG) to revive a neglected piece of land in East London. The selected artists – Karen Guthrie & Nina Pope – proposed a temporary 'harvest garden' for several years at the site, pending its permanent transformation into a public garden, also designed by the artists. The partnership will be looking into funding opportunities for continuing the Garden Club Leader contract into 2010.

The 80m x 20m garden is a social and horticultural experiment: its 30 large-scale raised beds are freely accessible for anyone who wants to cultivate land to grow their own flowers, fruit and vegetables. Members of the public are also welcome to visit the gardens, which will ordinarily be open daily. Tools, seeds and tuition are all free.

The Garden Club will run at the Abbey Gardens site at Baker's Row, London E15 three times a week during the project's main season from late May – November. The Club will offer encouragement, resources and tuition to the public who want to use the garden, and also information and interpretation to visitors. Occasionally the Leader will be expected to attend meetings or other activities elsewhere. The role will include liaison with stakeholders and some project administration (for which the Leader is expected to use their own facilities).

The Leader will help prepare the site and also help facilitate a series of events there, such as talks / demonstrations and a Harvest Festival at the season's end.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

We are seeking an enthusiastic and self-motivated person with a passion for getting people (of all ages) gardening and enjoying gardens. They must also have an interest in and empathy with the artists' vision for the project. The successful candidate will be a local advocate for the project and must be a self-organiser as they will work largely independently at the site. They should be prepared to work flexibly as the project evolves, and to contribute ideas and input. They may perhaps structure themed activities for certain days, or otherwise redefine the Club's sessions to meet the demands of the site users and the ambitions of the project. They must be available throughout the project period at the agreed Club opening times (cover is available for up to 2 weeks absence by prior arrangement). The Leader will be responsible to and commissioned directly by the artists' company, Somewhere.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- Providing individual and group hands-on tuition and encouragement to members of the public who want to use the garden.
- Facilitate three garden club sessions per week throughout the duration of the commission.
- Ensuring the use of safe working practices at the site, and of the safety of the visiting public.
- Conduct regular routine light maintenance of the garden – e.g watering, hoeing, dead-heading.
- Ensure that site building/s and tools are well-maintained and secured as necessary.
- Provide feedback on a regular basis to the artists and stakeholders such as Friends of Abbey Gardens and Newham Council
- Distribute and collate supplied project evaluation materials

DESIRABLE EXPERIENCE

- Horticultural training or qualifications
- Planning and delivery of education / interpretation sessions in the public or charitable sectors
- Employment in voluntary or professional community arts
- Working with and supporting volunteers
- Practical maintenance of a medium – largescale garden, preferably one that is publicly-accessible

APPLICATION PROCESS: GARDEN CLUB LEADER

Please read the background project information and about the artists' other work on www.somewhere.org.uk/abbeygardens
Direct any enquiries to artists@somewhere.org.uk,
or telephone Karen Guthrie on 07976 359477

To apply email your CV (Including two referees) plus a one A4 page letter stating your reasons for applying to artists@somewhere.org.uk
Please do not send any other materials with your application although you are welcome to include URLs in your letter / CV.

DEADLINE

5pm Wed. 22nd April

Interviews will be held in East London on 29th April

If you have not received a response to your application by 5pm on Friday 24th then unfortunately you have not been shortlisted for the post.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Post will involve mainly weekend and evening work on a regular basis. The successful candidate will be required to hold their own public liability insurance and to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check.

*Additional Information on Garden Website Maintenance Post

The artists are developing a new website for the project with their programmer Dorian Moore. An illustrated plant database will be its main feature, and though regular web-users may also contribute comments online, we are seeking a person to take prime responsibility for regular blogging and data inputting via a simple online CMS (Content Management System). The work will be undertaken from the applicant's own base. If you are interested in applying for both posts please contact us to find out more details.