

Cultural Activism Promotor

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

(May 2010)

Somos Mayfair cultivates the dreams and power of the people of Mayfair through cultural activism, social services and community organizing. We are generations of immigrants, rooted in a vibrant community, who nurture healthy families and speak out for justice in Silicon Valley.

We are working toward the day when all people of Mayfair believe our barrio to be a place where beauty, power, and dignity flourish and Mayfair is extensively connected to the region, valued for our contributions to society and engaged with the broader movement for justice.

Overview

Somos Mayfair is neighborhood-based nonprofit agency working with the immigrant, working-class residents of the Mayfair area of east San José. Formed in 1996, Somos Mayfair's staff and volunteer community promotores provide direct services to Mayfair families focusing on health and wellness and ensuring our children will succeed in school. At the same time we organize residents to work collectively to build the community's political power. In all of our work, we deploy a growing team of volunteer community cultural activists who use culture as a tool to build community, dialogue and action.

Cultural Activism in Somos Mayfair

Since 2004, Somos Mayfair has actively piloted the use of popular theater, popular education and other forms of cultural activism to build community and develop leadership and analysis about the issues of concern for our community. We have produced ten original plays, built a theater ensemble, *Teatro Familias Unidas*, comprised of 13 resident immigrant mothers; performed to more than 5,000 primarily working-poor immigrant audiences throughout the Bay Area, presented at conferences, written articles and utilized digital media to disseminate our work.

Our work is inspired and supported by Teatro Visión de San José, Bread and Puppet Theater, the San Francisco Mime Troupe, and el Teatro Campesino. What *differentiates* Somos Mayfair is that we are not a theater company but a community-based agency providing social services and community organizing. Our work incorporates the tools of cultural activism for community development while also committing to high artistic standards. In this way we serve as leader and model to other social service agencies, organizers and movement building organizations that the cultural arts are a powerful tool for community development. We have explored issues such as parenting, family health, domestic violence, immigration, the ecological crisis, participation in the census and mobilizing the immigrant vote. We have drawn from the teachings and traditions of Theatre of the Oppressed, oral history, creative writing, collaborative storytelling, drama therapy, shadow puppetry, indigenous ceremony, dance, Chicano theater and spoken word.

We seek to deepen and broaden our cultural activism work, while grounded in popular theater, to other methodologies and communication strategies and integrate it more effectively into our Family Support and Civic Action programs. We will also continue to strengthen our analysis of our core issues regarding family health and early school success with our community members so that they become the leaders of a powerful grassroots movement for justice. The Cultural Activism Promotor will build on the foundations we have established to:

- Further integrate cultural activism throughout the work of the organization;
- Develop and implement culturally relevant communications strategies;
- Deepen the understanding and practice of indigenous cultural traditions, story-telling and the sharing of personal stories to empower individuals and motivate civic participation;
- Apply principles of popular education to increase the effectiveness of our community education and leadership development;
- Support residents to learn about culture from their own experiences, build confidence for creative expression and build capacities to lead other cultural activists.

Required Qualifications (partial list)

1. Deep passion and commitment to advancing social justice and progressive movement building in immigrant, working class communities;
2. Minimum of three years working experience in the following three areas - popular education, popular theater, and cultural activism for community organizing;
3. Experience working directly in immigrant, working class communities;
4. Knowledge of program development and program data tracking and evaluation;
5. Experience delivering written and oral program reports to a variety of stakeholders;
6. Bilingual/biliterate Spanish-English required;
7. Valid California drivers license and proof of auto insurance required;

The salary range for this position \$40,000 – 55,000/year plus benefits including: medical, dental, vision, life insurance, paid holidays, sick time, 401K plan. This is a non-exempt position and reports directly to a Program Director. We encourage you to forward this announcement to others who may be interested. The position will remain open until filled.

Please apply by submitting a cover letter and resume to:

Cultural Activism Promotor
Somos Mayfair
370-B S. King Rd.
San Jose, CA 95116

Or via e-mail at: lespino@somosmayfair.org

Somos Mayfair is an equal opportunity employer.

For more info contact us at (408) 251-6900 or visit our website at: www.somosmayfair.org