



SPEC Community Garden Engagement Coordinator

Title: Cambie Garden Engagement Coordinator

Hours per week: 10 hours/week for 28 weeks, with the flexibility to increase hours during peak garden season, and decrease hours during the shoulder months, and to work on weekends and some week nights.

Estimated start date: May 16, 2019

Pay per hour: \$20 - \$24/hour depending on experience

Work Location:

The garden is located on the Northwest corner of Cambie St. and 12th Ave, in Vancouver, a very busy and bustling intersection close to Vancouver City Hall and the City Hall Skytrain station. Work for this job will happen at the garden site with some hours worked from home or the SPEC office.

Background

Founded in 1969, The Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC) is a non-profit charitable organization that provides practical solutions for urban sustainability. Areas of work include local food security, zero waste, renewable energy and protection of local land and water resources. Visit the website at www.spec.bc.ca for more information on SPEC's programs and initiatives.

SPEC's Food Committee

SPEC's Food Committee runs a number of projects ranging from working in school gardens, teaching adults about urban agriculture and supporting farmers in adapting to climate change and supporting ecosystems services on farmland. The committee is formed by board members, staff and volunteers that meet monthly for general committee work and more frequently for project specific work.

Cambie Square Communal Garden

The Cambie Square Communal Garden started in 2006 on public land and is approved by the City of Vancouver. It is a unique communal garden model in which there are no individual plots. Community members get together once a week to collaborate on the garden design, decision-making and hands-on work as a community. There are workshops and skill sharing throughout the season. The harvest is shared amongst everyone involved with the garden. Gardeners include people who are beginners to gardening and professional gardeners. Age of gardeners ranges from 2 years old to 88 years old.



The garden is hidden behind a hedgerow, between 10th and 12th Avenues. There is a wheelchair accessible ramp and two sets of stairs that reach the garden area. There is no vehicle access to the garden area. The space has 13 boxes of different sizes, but on average, each one is about 4 by 8 square feet. The garden takes up one side of an open courtyard, which is surrounded by condominiums.

The garden is in a high-density neighbourhood dominated by apartment buildings and condominiums, where most residents don't have access to gardens or lawns. Therefore, the garden is in a unique position to serve this community by giving people access to green space to enjoy and learn from.

Job Description & Responsibilities

We are looking for a part-time garden coordinator to help reach out to the community, involve more gardeners, and organize more opportunities for learning.

The Cambie Square Communal Garden has been run by community volunteers since its inception in 2006, but we have realized that a strong, supported leader would help the garden flourish to its full potential. The space has the potential to engage a more diverse community of volunteers and learners and provide a wider range of, and better organized, environmental education opportunities.

Our vision is not just to have the garden be a place where volunteers can grow local, sustainable food, we want to be able to support volunteers in their learning of sustainable food production and environmental stewardship skills. We also want the space to foster inter-generational and inter-cultural community connections that build understanding and community. All volunteers share in the planning, planting, harvesting and maintenance of the garden, which establishes community connections and involves as many people as possible. We are hoping to attract more participants to our weekly work parties, which are at the core of the garden activity. We hope to provide skills development to participants on how to build garden boxes, as well as all other garden activities, towards building capacity in the garden's volunteers.

To help us achieve this, the coordinator will be tasked with:

- Organizing one work party per week
- Organizing a watering system/schedule throughout the summer
- Organizing three workshops throughout the summer
- Reaching out widely to the community in order to engage more volunteers
- Reaching out to local businesses to increase support for the garden
- Updating the garden's social media sites and use it as a way to reach out to the community
- Research best crops and methods to use for local, sustainable production and provide this information to community gardeners at work parties to help inform decision-making and design
- Source donations and supplies for the garden, such as seeds, compost, plants, wood to rebuild boxes, etc and make supplies available for work parties
- Coordinate replacement and rebuilding of old boxes, through work parties



- Coordinate new signage as needed
- Collect and maintain data about garden activities such as number of volunteers and participants, types of crops planted, amount harvested and shared, etc and document garden activities
- Attend monthly evening SPEC meetings and provide updates
- Apply for grants
- Develop a sustainable strategy for long-term community engagement

Qualifications

- Have an understanding of anti-oppressive values and practices
- Experience working in community engagement with diverse communities
- Experience in community-based food security, food sovereignty, and gardening/agricultural work
- Experience in project/program management and budget planning
- Knowledge of blog and social media communication
- Excellent with time management
- Passionate and outgoing
- Comfortable working under minimal supervision
- Enjoys working on a wide range of tasks and is able to improve working procedures
- Self-motivated, highly adaptable and organized
- Strong interest in environmental issues, urban sustainability and food security
- Excellent people skills; ability to communicate with diplomacy and tact as a representative of SPEC
- Experience and skills managing volunteers
- Able to accommodate a fairly flexible schedule
- Vehicle to move supplies (car, bike with trailer or access to a car share program) or a car-share membership
- Owning a computer is an asset
- Strong problem solver
- Strong time manager

Please forward your resume and cover letter quoting **“Cambie Community Garden Coordinator”** in the subject line

by **May 5, 2019** to admin@spec.bc.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest in this position, however only those shortlisted will be contacted.