

South Asian Cultural Healing Garden Production Assistant

Indian Summer Festival Society

South Asian Cultural Healing Garden Production Assistant - LFS 496 Summer Term 2024

Mentor: Alisha Lettman

Position Location: 7646 Prince Albert St, Vancouver BC, V5X 3Z4 / 1945 McLean Dr, Vancouver, BC V5N 3J6

This is an in-person placement

Hours: 3 months at 9 hours per week

Credits: 3

Specific Duties

The South Asian Cultural Healing Garden Production Assistant will be responsible for:

- Assisting with the production of the project overall, including:
- Co-managing a native plant garden that includes annual South Asian heritage medicinal, food and dye plants
- Increasing neighborhood engagement with the garden's production through outreach
- Supporting workshops, volunteer workdays and public engagements in and around the garden
- Assisting with the development of interactive artistic interventions designed to increase community climate resilience
- Aiding in the exhibition of the garden during the Indian Summer Festival events through July 1 - 14 and in the garden on July 13th or 14th
- Documenting the project and collaboratively developing communications to demonstrate the project's scope

Learning goals

- Hands-on learning focusing on medicinal, edible and dye plants with a specific focus on native and culturally-relevant plants
- Learn to identify and steward native and culturally-relevant plants
- Develop a deep understanding of community-based climate adaptation initiatives with an anti-oppressive, arts-based lens
- Strengthening proficiency in anti-oppressive, decolonial and culturally-rooted stakeholder engagement
- Apply creative techniques increase community-level climate resilience
- Demonstrate competence communicating across cultures, both in writing and in-person

Qualifications

- Strong understanding of the ecological impacts of both colonization and climate change
- Interest in food sovereignty, cultural knowledge preservation and community-building
- Skills or interest in graphic design, film/photography, performance art, textiles or other artistic mediums ideal, but not required
- Prior connection to Punjabi Market neighborhood or South Asian culture/plants ideal, but not required

About Indian Summer Festival Society

Indian Summer Arts Society is a not-for-profit secular arts organization and registered charity based in Vancouver on the unceded Coast Salish territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Səlilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations. We present some of Vancouver's most distinctive arts + culture events as part of our annual Indian Summer Festival, and ISF+ events we present in collaboration with our community and cultural partners. We strive to be loving and fierce, with an audacious curatorial punch that dismantles walls, plays with ideas and provokes necessary dialogue and debate. In doing this, we believe in the transformative power of the arts, and their ability to offer society's most renewable resource: hope.

The South Asian Cultural Healing Garden is located at Moberly Arts and Culture Center, in the Punjabi Market neighborhood in South Vancouver. Primarily a native plant garden and teaching resource, the garden is the site of the 2024 Artist as Healer project where the 2024 Artist in Residence is bringing together youth, seniors, and healthcare professionals to consider the role that South Asian traditional knowledge has in climate change adaptation. This interdisciplinary project brings together medicinal plant knowledge, diverse music and art traditions, and land-based learning.

Note: Weekend and Evening Availability will be important. To apply please with a short cover letter and a resume to: Alisha Lettman alishalett@gmail.com and include "LFS 496 Summer Student" within your subject line