

HIRSHHORN

AMBASSADORS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Introduction:

The Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian's modern and contemporary art museum, is looking for independent, energetic, and personable individuals to serve as volunteer Ambassadors for the museum. An Ambassador orients visitors both to the themes of modern and contemporary art and to the building's layout and surrounding sculpture plaza and garden. The Ambassador is one of the most important touchpoints of a visitor's journey into and across the Hirshhorn and is indispensable to guarantee memorable visitor experiences.

Overview:

Hirshhorn Ambassadors' role is unique in that they both provide information to the visitors and benefit from great autonomy to guide them through all of the museum's exhibits. Strategically posted inside and outside the Hirshhorn, Ambassadors help humanize the visitor experience and demystify modern and contemporary art for local and international visitors alike. Hirshhorn Ambassadors are here to connect with the visitors, to make them feel welcomed, and to help streamline visitor traffic and floor operations.

The search for volunteer Ambassadors is concurrent to the opening of new and exciting exhibitions (particularly, *Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors* in February of 2017) and to the museum's dedication to being a leader in presenting thought-provoking art works and artists of our time.

Key Responsibilities:

- Establish a welcoming and genuine interaction with visitors.
- Facilitate meaningful visitor experiences, by welcoming diverse groups of visitors and engaging in inquiry-based discovery.
- Orient visitors through all exhibits and provide information about current and upcoming programs.
- Provide a safe and enjoyable environment to visitors by helping manage floor operations and visitor circulation.
- Attend all trainings and continuing learning opportunities.
- Give planned and impromptu tours to small and medium-sized groups.
- Assist with special events, as needed.

Qualifications:

- An energetic, genuine, and personable approach to people interactions.
- A natural talent to connect with people and to present information with great clarity and enthusiasm.
- Willingness to work both alone and in a team setting with staff and other volunteers.
- Agree to work inside and outside the museum (sometimes in inclement weather) and to stand for extended periods of time.
- Able to adapt to change and to be comfortable to respond to any questions.
- Able to use computers to track volunteer work duty and hours and issue reports.

Preferences:

We like volunteers who can engage visitors of all ages and all cultural backgrounds, who have a curiosity for modern and contemporary art and who speak a foreign language fluently.

Benefits:

Volunteering at Hirshhorn opens the door to many benefits and opportunities to connect with people and learn about the arts, history, and cultural heritage of many nations. But, amongst other things, you will benefit from:

- Discounts in shops and restaurants across the Smithsonian campus
- Free entry to participating museums around the world
- Invitation to staff-only Smithsonian events and programs
- Free skill-building and continuous learning opportunities
- Tax deduction for travel expenses incurred in the duty of your volunteer role with the Hirshhorn
- And much more!

Time Commitment & Requirements:

We ask that you commit to volunteer one shift per week for one year and attend all training sessions. Shifts will be 4 hours long from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to sign up for additional shifts and assist with late night openings and special events.

Training: Scheduled to begin January 2017.

Volunteer work start date: Third week of 2017 (subject to change.)

Contact/Information: Vincent R. Deschamps, Visitor Experience Manager

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