

STORYTELLING ARTS

*Protecting, promoting, and imparting the living art of storytelling to build literacy,
strengthen communities and nurture the human spirit*

Position Type/Classification: Full-time exempt. Remote with in-person meetings and events.

Location: Lambertville based, serving all of New Jersey

Reporting to: Board of Directors

Compensation: \$65,000 year

Introduction

Founded in 1996, Storytelling Arts is a social justice nonprofit made up of story keepers, tellers, and teaching artists who support the transformative power of storytelling. The mission of Storytelling Arts is to protect, promote, and impart the living art of storytelling to build literacy, strengthen communities, and nurture the human spirit. Storytelling Arts places a high value on community storytellers and believes that they hold important cultural lessons that deepen our collective humanity. Neuroscientists and evolutionary biologists confirm that 100,000 years of storytelling has hardwired our brains to think in story terms. Stories seed empathy and compassion, and challenge assumptions and stereotypes. By listening to and learning from diverse voices we build understanding, illuminate new perspectives, and deepen connections with those around us. Storytelling Arts levels the educational playing field for students of all learning styles with outcome-driven storytelling experiences that strengthen listening, speaking, and critical thinking skills while meeting NJ core curriculum standards. SA also activates dynamic storytellers to expand story pedagogy to include voices that have not typically been heard. Through the Untold Stories of Storied People program we amplify powerful personal stories that break through old narratives to expose authentic contemporary human experiences.

Storytelling Arts seeks a dynamic, passionate, creative, and entrepreneurial Executive Director who will serve a critical role in its continued growth and success as a thriving cultural pulse-point. We envision a charismatic and empowering leader who will embrace our interdisciplinary approach to storytelling as both an ancient tradition and a living art form that reflects contemporary society. The new ED will also expand our reach into new communities in search of new allies, supporters, and creative partners. The successful candidate will share the organization's culture of diversity, inclusion, equity, and access. Storytelling Arts sees these values as connected to its mission and critical to ensuring the well-being of its staff, volunteers, and the communities it serves. The organization's home base is Lambertville, NJ.

Principal Responsibilities

- Ensure ongoing programmatic excellence embodying the mission and vision of Storytelling Arts.
- Research, write, and manage all funding proposals to corporations, government, and foundations.
- Cultivate relations with major donors to increase donations from individuals.
- Attract, retain, manage, support, and motivate staff.
- Ensure transparent management of financial, programmatic, and impact performance in keeping with policies of best practice and in line with annual strategic goals.
- Engage and manage relationships with board members to ensure strong governance, effective external engagement, participation in fundraising activities, and securing annual contributions.
- Apply rigorous program evaluation, and strong and pro-active community engagement.
- Deepen and refine all aspects of communications—from web presence to external relations with the goal of creating a stronger brand and garnering new opportunities.
- Maintain and grow strong alliances with community partners and collaborators.
- Develop and foster a strong organizational culture.
- Update and maintain organizational systems and policies.

Core Competencies

- Understanding of the impact of systemic racism
- High emotional intelligence
- Sound judgment
- Understanding of trauma informed care
- Collaborative/team player
- Problem solving/analysis skills
- High integrity and confidentiality
- Organizational and documentation skills
- Community-minded
- Strong written and verbal communication skills

Required Skills & Experiences

- Bachelor's degree, professional for-profit and/or non-profit experience with increasing responsibility.
- Proven experience either as a non-profit Director, similar leadership/management experience, and/or nonprofit management certification.
- Proven track record of success in grant writing and fundraising initiatives.
- Strong knowledge of financials, including budget analysis and financial forecasting.
- High level of emotional intelligence and a demonstrated ability to work with vulnerable communities.
- Demonstrated ability to prioritize work, to plan and implement tasks with minimum supervision, and to respond quickly and effectively to unplanned activities.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to use consultative decision-making processes.
- Initiative, creativity, patience, drive, energy, ability to listen and a sense of humor.
- Excellent computer and technology skills.
- Demonstrated understanding of non-discrimination policies relating to race, class, nationality, religion, age, gender and sexual orientation, and disabilities.
- Successful candidates must have a valid NJ driver's license and insurable driving record.

Benefits

Paid time off
Health Insurance

Application Instructions

Storytelling Arts is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer and does not discriminate based upon race, religion, color, national origins, gender (including pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, status as a protected veteran, status as an individual with a disability, or other applicable legally protected characteristics. The organization is committed to DEIA. Candidates from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

A brief cover letter, resume, and two writing samples (ex: grant proposal, annual report summary, vision statement, etc.) should be emailed to: info@storytellingartsinc.org. In the cover letter, please include relevant experience, explain why this opportunity is exciting to you, and include 3 references with contact information. If you do not meet every qualification above, but feel you are a strong candidate, please apply and make a case in your cover letter.

Applications are due by April 30, 2023. No phone calls please. If you need assistance or accommodation with the application due to a disability, contact us at info@storytellingartsinc.org.