Cultural Education Specialist

The Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association's (VBGA) work takes place on the unceded Ancestral shared lands of the xʷməθkwəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (TsleilWaututh) Nations. We are honoured to be on the lands where these Nations have lived since time immemorial, and where they continue to maintain stewardship.

Our mission of connecting people to plants is rooted in place-based education. We work to honour the Host Nations' knowledge and protocols and will continue to build relations on trust and respect for the caretakers and knowledge keepers of the land that supports us. In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, we recognize that our work of promoting environmental sustainability and stewardship would not be possible without Indigenous perspectives and knowledge.

The Role:

Working at both VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory, the Cultural Education Specialist will engage with various audiences including, but not limited to, children, adults, teachers, VBGA and Park Board staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners, which can involve leading tours, running educational programs, participating in outreach events, and working alongside various communities. Alongside Education Team Members, they will also contribute to maintaining and building new meaningful and reciprocal relationships with the xʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, on whose unceded land our work takes place. Other responsibilities include developing, implementing, and facilitating educational resources and tours, as well as incorporating relevant natural and cultural heritage into existing educational programming.

Responsibilities

- In collaboration with the education team, develop and facilitate educational programs, tours and activities for various audiences including children and adults.
- Handle end-to-end program logistics, including material preparation, facilitation, and post-activity cleanup.
- Lead liaison for quarterly medicine wheel ceremonies, which are facilitated externally.
- Contribute to maintaining and building new relationships with Indigenous communities based on respect, understanding and mutual trust with a respect for protocol, custom, culture, and history.
- Identify, suggest, and/or incorporate Indigenous curriculum and pedagogy into programming where appropriate.
- Representing the VBGA at community outreach events both onsite and offsite.
- Provide instruction for volunteers during various education programs.
- Contribute to training sessions for staff and volunteers related to cultural and natural heritage.
- Assist with various administrative tasks associated with educational programming.
- Participate in the VBGA's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility (IDEA) Committee and Truth and Reconciliation Committee

Qualifications and Eligibility*

- Candidates with Indigenous heritage are encouraged to apply
- Experience and/or training with Indigenous perspectives, an appreciation of generational knowledge, and understanding of the distinct and unique connections Indigenous Peoples have with the land and environment
- Experience delivering educational programs to diverse audiences including children and adults

- Cultural sensitivity awareness through training and/or lived experience and experience working respectfully with various cultures
- Strong customer service and communication skills
- Flexible work schedule to accommodate for occasional evening or weekend programming
- Clear, recent Criminal Records Check through the BC Government's Criminal Records Review Program (CRRP) including clearance for vulnerable populations (or willingness to obtain prior to start) • Valid Standard First Aid Certification incl. CPR-C and AED (or willingness to obtain prior to start)

Assets

- Familiarity with Indigenous focused programs in the Lower Mainland.
- Knowledgeable and interested in plants, botany, ecology and/or gardening.

*We encourage you to apply if you think you are the right fit, but do not meet all the qualifications.

Salary: $28/hour
Start Date and Hours: October 2026 (contract position to August 31, 2027) Full-time 35 hours per week
Submit cover letter and resume to: Dennis Chen, Senior Manager of Community Engagement
dchen@vandusen.org