

CREATIVE GROUNDS

About Creative Grounds @ Overton

Creative Grounds initiative is powered by a partnership between Borderless and the Washington Park Development Group. Creative Grounds is the organizing platform for community-led design activations and projects at the former Anthony Overton school located in Bronzeville. These activation projects seek to reconnect the community with the school in the meantime that the site is fully redeveloped as a business, technology and design incubator. Community activations and projects are focused on cultivating exchange and collaboration - at Overton we prioritize collective work and projects. For the past five years Overton has hosted dozens of collaborative creative projects including art and design installations, workshops, exhibitions, community gardens and more recently a mutual aid market, that reflect on the history of the school, celebrate its legacy, and introduce its renewed identity while testing new program ideas.

More about this initiative:

www.creativegrounds.org

About Overton's Community Garden

The Community Garden at Overton has been powered by volunteers since the Summer of 2021. This garden project has been both an expansion of the project *Breaking Ground: The Schoolyard Workshop* by Studio BASAR (contributor to [Chicago Architecture Biennial 2019](#)) as an outdoor space for collective learning, gathering, and growing fresh food; and the continuation of the [community-led rapid response food distribution network](#) that was deployed at Overton in Summer of 2020.

More about Creative Grounds / Summer 2021 & 2020:

www.creativegrounds.org/frameworks-of-resilience

www.creativegrounds.org/single-post/2020/09/15/designing-access-to-food

Work with us as a Community Garden Coordinator!

Creative Grounds is seeking a community-focused, collaborative and enthusiastic individual to join our team as Community Garden Coordinator! This year, the garden organizing team (all volunteers) is looking for a Garden Coordinator to help support the care of the garden, and the coordination of volunteers throughout the Summer months (May-September).

What you'll do

- Participate in garden design, planning and coordination meetings; many of these types of meetings are anticipated virtual.
- Be the contact person on-site for neighbors and volunteers for garden-related activities
- Coordinate weekly or bi-weekly volunteer activities (May-Sep); activities to coordinate include watering schedule, clean ups, planting, harvesting, etc,
- General maintenance and care taking of the garden. Maintenance activities include: filling water storage containers, updating signage/boards with volunteer schedules and garden activities; monitor that the garden area is clean, plants are healthy and garden planters in good shape.
- Attend and facilitate garden activities during monthly Community Days at Overton scheduled on Saturdays 2-5pm:
 - June 25
 - July 31
 - August 27
 - September 17

What you'll need

- Required
 - Must love community gardens and being outdoors!
 - Be hands-on with gardening / maintenance activities and troubleshooting
 - Experience coordinating and working with volunteers
 - Excellent communication and engagement skills (verbal, written, email)
 - Patience and adaptability - this community garden is fairly new, so we are still figuring out the workflow and access to resources needed
- Preferred
 - Bronzeville or Southside Resident
 - Experience taking care of gardens (your backyard garden counts!)
 - Knowledge of growing food, flowers and/or plants

What we offer

This pilot position at Overton is our first effort to compensate a garden steward, and advance the sustainability of this community garden. You will work closely with a small, but mighty garden team (all volunteers), and a network of enthusiastic supporters and partners. You also will be supported with connections to other garden teams and a network of people with different knowledge about community gardens in Chicago.

This position anticipates approximately 5 hours a week during 5 months (May-September), and offers a total stipend of \$2,000 to be paid in 5 installments. See payment schedule below.

Payment schedule will be as follows:

Payment #1: Second week of May - or when agreement is signed	\$400
Payment #2: Second week of June	\$400
Payment #3: Second week of July	\$400
Payment #4: Second week of August	\$400
Payment #5: Second week of September	\$400

How to Apply

Please complete [this online application](#) by **Monday, May 2 by 5pm.**

Selected individual for this position will be contacted the week of May 2, 2022; coordination with the Community Garden Team for the first event is anticipated to start on **Monday, May 9.**

Questions

If you have any questions, please email with subject line "Creative Grounds Garden Coordinator Position" to hola@borderless-studio.com. You can also leave a voicemail at: 773-270-2195. These two forms of communication are monitored once a day – please allow 1-2 days for response.