DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE

Please submit your cover letter, resume, and salary requirements. Only those whose applications are being considered will be contacted.

Apply

ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE

Friends of the High Line raises 98% of the High Line’s annual budget. Owned by the City of New York, the High Line is a public park maintained, operated, and programmed by Friends of the High Line, in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Director of Horticulture plays a lead role within FHL’s Park Operations department leading the horticulture team and coordination of other departmental activities. Under the supervision of FHL’s Vice President of Park Operations, the Director of Horticulture is responsible for all aspects of management and long-term care of the High Line’s unique landscape and garden details, along with public and internal messaging.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Be the leading member of the High Line’s Horticulture Department, taking responsibility for long-term planning, as well as daily oversight of the High Line’s unique landscape and gardens
- Work directly with the Manager of Horticulture and Senior Gardeners to oversee the day-to-day operational needs and the communication initiatives relating to horticulture
- Evaluate, build, and codify a cohesive landscape management plan that ensures consistency in best practices and management techniques along 1.5 miles of internationally renowned, highly-visited public greenspace, while working closely with the design team of James Corner Field Operations and Piet Oudolf to implement and reinforce the early design principles that have informed the High Line plantings
- Participate in FHL’s donor identification, cultivation, and stewardship efforts related to High Line horticulture; identify new opportunities for donor engagement around horticultural and operational initiatives; lead communication and event planning for FHL Horticulture committee
- Represent FHL to the High Line Design Team, helping to develop and implement the planting plans for the High Line’s landscape projects still in process, as well as necessary modifications to the existing plantings
- Assess existing landscape challenges and work with horticulture staff, designers, and consultants to formulate appropriate responses and implement changes as necessary
• Actively promote and contribute to the High Line’s sustainability initiatives in landscape and park management
• Create immediate and long-term departmental goals; communicate updates and plans through the appropriate channels to park visitors, the public, High Line donors, Board members, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, and audiences both locally and abroad
• Provide expertise and vision for a staff of ten full-time gardeners, as well as several seasonal gardeners and a horticulture intern;
• Lead weekly meetings with the horticulture staff and articulate departmental priorities on a daily/weekly basis; ensure that work plans are designed and executed in conjunction with such priorities
• Provide direction related to individual and group projects, with attention to long term planning and problem solving
• Ensure the optimal staffing of the horticulture team, recruiting, hiring, and training to build out the department and ensure that gardeners receive ongoing instruction and evaluation, while continually expanding their diverse skill sets
• Draft RFPs for third party vendors as needed; review proposals, engage, and coordinate activities of third party vendors
• Oversee the implementation of a new plant and horticulture management Cartegraph software
• Work with Communications Department on a long term plan for translating pertinent information to FHL’s online resources and print material
• Communicate regularly with Vice President of Operations on the status of projects, providing information and feedback on all areas of High Line horticulture
• Act as part of High Line operations management team, participating in overall operations planning, responding to emergency situations on the High Line (including, but not limited to, snow removal), and ensuring a positive visitor experience
• Act as a leading member of the organization along with other Vice Presidents and Directors to work with the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director to move the organization forward.
• Work with the Programs Department to develop, organize, and implement horticulture programs, publications and tours; plus coordinate training and work with FHL’s Green Corps program for NYC teens
• Participate in a range of activities beyond the typical work day, including High Line events and programs, fundraising initiatives, tours, and stewardship and cultivation activities as needed

QUALIFICATIONS

• Six+ years of horticultural experience with in-depth knowledge of plant culture, maintenance, and identification
• Advanced degree in Horticulture with in-depth knowledge of naturalized garden care and maintenance
• Understanding or previous work with Piet Oudolf a plus
• Successful track record managing a public or private garden and its staff
• Excellent staff management skills
• Ability to engage with a wide variety of stakeholders, including high level donors, city partners, High Line Design Team, High Line Development Team, and Horticulture committee members
• Ability to represent the High Line externally (be a public face) by leading tours, giving presentations, and other press forums for a variety of audiences
• Ability to work long hours, holidays, and weekends as necessary
• Valid NY state driver's license
• Familiarity of NY pesticide laws and actions
• Solid computer skills required (Microsoft, Google, and database applications)
• Ability to operate electric equipment and power tools
• Team-player, willing to collaborate on all tasks required for maintaining the highest standards of garden management and operations, programs, development, and communications
• Ability to plan forward while being able to adjust to the unexpected

Friends of the High Line is an equal opportunity employer and considers applicants for all positions without regard to race, color, religion, creed, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.