



Teaching & Production Artist /Woodworking Specialty - Van Go, Inc.

About Us:

Van Go, Inc. is an arts-based nonprofit organization providing comprehensive, ‘earn while you learn’ employment programs and social services to Douglas County youth, ages 14-24. Using art as the vehicle, Van Go provides employability and life skills training, health and wellness education, and social service supports to inspire our youth to create their own visions of success. Van Go’s nationally recognized programs put art to work, meet young people where they are, and spark what is possible through creative expression. **Our mission is to inspire young lives through art, work, and community.**

Our Core Values - At Van Go, we:

- *Believe in the power of art*
- *Create a safe environment for self-expression*
- *Prioritize overall health and well-being*
- *Encourage self-empowerment*
- *Nurture community and a caring “home away from home”*
- *Inspire hope for the future*

Position Summary:

The Teaching & Production Artist (TPA) facilitates meaningful artmaking experiences with young people using high quality art materials and tools. The Teaching & Production Artist will guide Apprentice Artists, ages 14-24, in the creation of art product that is aligned with Van Go’s mission, programs, brand, and production goals. The TPA will collaborate with the Art Director to determine curriculum, plans, materials, and schedules to best support our youth participants and meet art production needs. The TPA will have an art specialty in woodworking or adjacent craft, and be responsible for the maintenance of facility equipment, tools, safety procedures, and consumable inventory in coordination with the Art Director.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

The Teaching & Production Artist (TPA) will be responsible for art instruction of youth participants, art production to support the needs of the programs/events, and other duties, including but not limited to the following:

Direct Service

- Work as an active member of the Program Team to research, prepare and implement a weekly woodworking (or adjacent craft) curriculum consistent with Van Go’s mission, philosophical principles, and ethical standards.
- Provide high quality instruction and support in woodworking (or adjacent craft) to assist participants in developing the skills, knowledge and work habits required for employment and future learning, including designing workshop curriculum appropriate to group dynamics, interests, abilities and allotted timeframes; and conduct periodic participant evaluations.

- Provide instruction to program participants on woodworking skills (or adjacent craft), safety procedures, and proper care of Van Go materials and equipment.
- Assure the health, safety, and well-being of program participants by enforcing all rules, regulations and safety procedures as outlined by Van Go, and create an encouraging workshop community that builds pride and self-esteem.

Product Development

- Collaborate with the Art Director to develop art products and new product lines for Van Go with consideration to Van Go branding, quality requirements, and consumer appeal.
- Create wood and/or other art products, under the direction of the Art Director, for Van Go programs and other seasonal/event related production needs.
- Create prototypes to ensure successful products and artmaking experiences for youth participants.

Facility and Material Maintenance

- Manage workshop spaces and maintain the machinery and equipment in order to facilitate a safe learning environment.
- Maintain inventory of wood working and/or other art supplies and teaching aids; determines and purchases raw materials and supplies required for training/production in sufficient time to meet assigned deadlines and in compliance with annual art budget.

Qualifications:

- Demonstrated at least three (3+) years of experience teaching and planning curriculum (or any combination of education and experience which would provide an equivalent background). Teaching experience may have been in schools or in community settings.
- Bachelor's Degree in art or related major preferred.
- In-depth technical knowledge of processes, materials and tools to be used during instruction and production in woodworking (or adjacent craft).
- Demonstrated ability to effectively deliver educational curriculum to individuals with varied learning styles and abilities.
- Broad range of knowledge and working familiarity across multiple art disciplines preferred.
- Knowledge of and commitment to health and safety as it applies to equipment operation, tools and materials handling.
- A commitment to uphold and implement Van Go's mission, educational philosophy, ethical guidelines, professional standards and equity values is expected, along with the belief in the transformative power of creative expression.
- Ability to effectively and enthusiastically engage with youth of different ages and diverse backgrounds, and a sensitivity to and appreciation for the population Van Go serves in our programs.
- Adaptability, analysis, collaboration, personal impact, dependability, safety awareness, organizational sensitivity, professionalism, and teamwork are characteristics central to this position.
- Must have the ability to listen, be patient, communicate information and ideas so others will understand, build relationships, inspire creativity, be encouraging, respectful, and resilient.
- Ability to prioritize, multi-task, effectively manage competing demands, work proactively, meet deadlines and have strong attention to detail.
- Preferred experience working with a wide variety of art materials and/or related equipment (i.e. acrylic paints and brushes, spray equipment, laser engraver, CNC machine, kilns, Google Suite and Adobe creative suite).

Additional Conditions/Requirements:

The Teaching & Production Artist will have a specialty craft allowing them to bring their individual skills and creative talents to enhance our projects and programming. The work hours for this position will be primarily concentrated Monday-Thursday mornings, with flexibility to meet the needs of the program, youth participants and agency. Occasional evenings and weekends for events and to meet deadlines. Position reports to the Art Director.

Selected candidate must pass a series of pre-employment background checks as a condition of employment. Reliable transportation, a valid and unrestricted driver's license, clean driving record and proof of insurance are required. The ideal candidate must be able to complete all physical requirements of the job with or without a reasonable accommodation. Selected candidate must have the physical ability to adhere to safety regulations regarding woodworking (or adjacent craft). The employee is frequently required to remain in a stationary position, move about the workspace (concrete floors), and safely operate machinery and a variety of tools. The employee must be able to frequently move objects weighing up to 50 pounds or more, ascend/descend ladders, stairs, and work in proximity to loud equipment. This role requires regular monitoring/observation and inspection of tools/materials and to detect safety concerns.

Van Go is committed to maintaining a culture of integrity, kindness, dignity, and respect. Van Go requires every employee to conduct themselves in a positive, collaborative and professional manner at all times.

Compensation/Benefits:

This is a part-time, year-round, pro-rated benefits-eligible position that works 20 hours per week. Compensation discussions are a part of the interviewing process, but the starting range for this position is \$19.50 – \$21.50 per hour commensurate with education, experience, demonstrated skills/traits. Van Go is committed to a healthy work-life balance and our employees enjoy competitive pay, attractive benefits, and a collaborative, creative and rewarding work environment.

Van Go, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion. Van Go, Inc. believes that equity, inclusion, diversity, and antiracism are essential to our mission. We want our Van Go community to benefit from varied ideas, world views, and personal experiences. We stand against all forms of discrimination and are committed to creating an environment grounded in our equity values. Van Go welcomes everyone. Applications are encouraged from all persons regardless of their race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, medical/physical/mental condition, pregnancy/childbirth and related medical condition, age, marital status, or veteran status.

Application Procedure:

Please submit the following to Kristen Malloy, Co-Executive Director of Program Administration/HR, at kristen@van-go.org for consideration:

- Cover letter addressing relevant experience and interest in the position
- Resume
- Contact information for three professional references
- A lesson plan that reflects your approach to teaching

Applications will be reviewed upon receipt and will continue until the position is filled.