

Boston Schoolyard Initiative (BSI) Outreach and Stewardship Manager Job Opening (20-30 hours/week)

BSI Background

The Boston Schoolyard Initiative (BSI) transforms Boston's schoolyards into dynamic centers for recreation, learning and community life. We reach children, families, community members and teachers with vibrant outdoor spaces for increased physical activity and creative new approaches to using the schoolyard for teaching and learning. We accomplish our work through a public-private partnership between the City of Boston, Boston Public Schools and the Boston Schoolyard Funders Collaborative.

Since 1995 we have revitalized 78 schoolyards, reached 25,000 school children and reclaimed 130 acres of asphalt. Principals report that BSI schoolyards lead to increased physical activity (100%); improved student behavior (63.2%) and improved relationships with parents and community (73.7%).*

Our schoolyards include play structures and outdoor classrooms designed specifically for teaching and learning. BSI's teaching resources and professional development help teachers revitalize instruction and motivate students to learn, using the schoolyard and outdoor classroom.

In the 2011-2012 school year, BSI will be planning three new schoolyard projects, and building our outreach and stewardship efforts to support our partner schools and their schoolyards.

Outreach and Stewardship Manager Job Description

The Outreach and Stewardship Manager will provide outreach and facilitation support to schoolyard groups during the schoolyard planning process, manage outreach to schools and schoolyard partner organizations and support BSI's youth maintenance and stewardship programs.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Schoolyard Planning Process: Serves as lead BSI staff person throughout the planning, design and construction of schoolyard renovation projects.

- Works with City of Boston Project Manager to implement a planning process that engages the school, its neighbors and community partners to create a great schoolyard project
- Brings community partners to the table and provides support, advice and encouragement to schoolyard groups;
- Manages communication with schoolyard groups throughout the planning process, and provides facilitation support at meetings

- Engages technical support consultants and BSI Director of Education at appropriate times in the schoolyard planning process, to ensure educational and schoolyard/outdoor classroom design objectives are met.
- Provides support materials needed for the schoolyard planning process

School and Schoolyard Community Outreach and Support:

- Reaches out to Boston's community, youth maintenance, health and wellness, and gardening organizations to identify and create potential partnerships and/or resources for BSI schools
- Serves as BSI's main liaison to schools and schoolyard groups
- Develops regular communications to share best practices and resources with schools, schoolyard friends groups, partners, etc.
- Develops BSI's use of website and other social marketing tools to support outreach and stewardship goals
- Contributes material to BSI website and maintains sections related to the planning, outreach and stewardship functions.
- Maintains database of school contacts, partners, volunteers and schoolyard friends

Schoolyard Stewardship: Manages BSI's schoolyard maintenance and stewardship efforts, including:

- Serves as main point of contact with BPS maintenance staff and landscape management consultant
- Supports landscape management consultant in training schoolyard groups to care for their outdoor classroom
- Manages BSI's youth maintenance program, and develops youth maintenance partnerships
- Coordinates technical support and other needed resources for stewardship and maintenance efforts
- Identifies and develops appropriate role for BSI in schoolyard volunteer efforts.

REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor's Degree. 5-7 years related work experience. Successful candidate will have these qualities: excellent facilitator and organizer; highly organized project manager; good team player internally and externally; excellent communicator and writer; excellent at partnership development and motivating and organizing people. Experience working with schools, governmental entities, summer youth programs or volunteer management a plus. Knowledge about landscape maintenance, gardening, landscape design and/or experience working with summer youth crews helpful. Reports to BSI Executive Director

Salary dependent on experience.

To apply: Send a cover letter and resume by June 10 to myrna.johnson@schoolyards.org.