



FREE SPIRIT MEDIA™

Job Title: Teaching Artist
Reports To: Program Manager(s)
Supervises: N/A

Status: PT Hourly (average of 10 hours per week), 12 weeks to start

Salary: \$40/hr

Customary Work Hours: Variable (based on program schedule)

Potential Work Days: Monday-Saturday

About Free Spirit Media:

Free Spirit Media (FSM) partners with young creators, ages 11-25 and primarily from the West and South sides of Chicago, to develop and amplify their unique and critical voices through storytelling and media arts. We do this through our holistic programming which focuses on community-building, skill-sharing, media creation along with career and education pathways that support young people to envision and build their futures within the media industry and beyond.

FSM's goal is to support young BIPOC media makers and journalists as they form robust and sustainable support systems, gain the skills needed to pursue employment in their creative fields, and understand the powerful and important gifts they bring to their chosen careers and society. FSM's media arts education and workforce investment programs are designed to break down barriers to access, success and leadership for emerging media makers and journalists from Chicago's West and South Sides.

Programming is successful when young people obtain the resources they need to share their essential voices, apply their unique talents in pursuit of college and/or career and find meaningful work within the film and journalism industries and beyond. FSM envisions a future in which more BIPOC creators are able to influence and shape the media industry and thereby influence and shape society.

Overview of the Role:

Teaching Artists serve as mentors to Emerging Teaching Artists and young creators who participate in FSM programs and are responsible for the planning and facilitation of culturally responsive, youth-centered media arts programs, both at our media center in North Lawndale and at partnering sites in CPS school classrooms on the Westside of Chicago. Teaching artists are paired in teaching artists teams (a TA and an emerging TA) to plan and co-facilitate dynamic media arts (narrative and documentary filmmaking, photography, music, podcasting and/or journalism, etc) programming.

Teaching Artists commit to regular weekly program sessions throughout the year, attend and contribute to cohort convenings, be open and be excited to collaborate and participate in professional

development, which this year will focus on restorative and transformative practices and creative youth development facilitation.

This is an ideal opportunity for experienced community-based teaching artists who are interested in working collaboratively with a community of other artists. Free Spirit Media intends to cultivate a community of practice and support amongst community-based media artists with a goal of deepening our programming and relevancy in North Lawndale and creating a space for intergenerational Westside-based media artists to thrive, create and build community together.

Candidate Requirements:

An ideal candidate for this role will be a practicing media artist with experience teaching and facilitating in community-based settings. This role requires collaboration, leadership, co-facilitation, ongoing lesson planning, and the ability to manage and facilitate youth-centered programming. Candidates should have a strong commitment to social justice, racial justice, youth voice and power-building and a commitment to art and storytelling as a medium for social transformation and justice.

Core responsibilities:

- Develop, plan, facilitate, and deliver media artists programming at FSM's media arts center, in CPS classrooms and/or within CPS after school programs.
- Partner with young people to support youth-led programming opportunities within media programming.
- Work with program managers, young people and teaching artists to plan and facilitate culminating events.
- Cultivate and maintain brave space agreements with young people, staff, guests and community members in the program space.
- Host guest artists as part of the curriculum.
- Program recruitment in partnership with the program manager.
- Participation and co-facilitation of teaching artist cohort space.
- Active participation in professional development.
- Embody a culture of respect, belonging and welcome with young people, families, partners, staff and others who enter FSM spaces.
- Actively foster trusting and caring relationships with young people, families, fellow artists and staff.
- Establish regular curriculum planning and reflection meetings with co-teaching artists.
- Mentor emerging teaching artist.
- Facilitate program evaluations in partnership with the program manager.

Qualifications/Requirements:

FSM Teaching Artists are arts educators who have extensive experience leading, planning and facilitating media arts programs with young people (3-5 years+). This role serves as a lead for day-to-day lesson planning and curriculum development and a mentor to emerging artists within the cohort.

- Belief in the power of young storytellers to lead social change.
- Love of storytelling and media.

- A commitment to leadership driven through mentorship, compassion, reciprocal learning and respect for the power of collaboration.
- Commitment to collaboration built through reciprocity and active communication with staff, families, young people and partners.
- Experience as a media artist educator.
- Ability to work a flexible schedule, including some evening hours and weekends.
- An equity lens (awareness of the inequities that exist at multiple levels from the personal to systemic) and demonstrated commitment to the values of equity, inclusion and belonging.
- Have an active media arts practice (ex: filmmaker, producer, DJ, photographer, journalist, podcaster, etc.)
- Possess a clear understanding of how to navigate the professional environment
- Creative problem-solving skills, strong attention to detail, well organized, and the ability to manage responsibilities independently while collaborating with staff and other TAs.
- A strong interest in partnering with young creators to develop their arts practice and skills.
- A commitment to fostering educational spaces with shared belonging where everyone is valued and include
- Strong organizational skills and the ability to be flexible when necessary
- Co-create a scaffolded media arts curriculum
- Ability to adjust schedules when needed based on the needs of the programs and the young people.
- Must be able to pass background check for working with children

Work Requirements:

This is a PT staff position. Hours average 10 hours a week. Evening and weekend hours are required depending on program schedule, as well as flexibility during productions and culminating events. Total hours include direct teaching (approximately 60%) and curriculum development, prep time and professional development (approximately 40%).

Free Spirit Media is committed to diversity, equity and belonging across all aspects of the organization. We strongly encourage those who reflect our community to apply, including West and South side residents, BIPOC identified people, individuals with disabilities, LGBTQI and/or people from low-income and working-class backgrounds.

To apply:

Please complete [this](#) application form.