



PROGRAM MANAGER - ARTSPARKS FOUNDATION

ArtSparks Foundation is an educational not-for-profit organization that works to support the development of 21st century learning and life skills in children, particularly children from under-served communities. ArtSparks also supports the professional development of teachers/facilitators, encouraging them to reflect on their teaching practice, and explore new ways to enrich their students learning.

What We Do?

At ArtSparks, we believe that a great education should equip children with skills to handle life's complexities—skills such as problem solving, flexible thinking, creative risk-taking, perseverance, collaboration, communication, and so much more. We believe that creativity is a critically important skill for the future with far reaching benefits. And, that visual art & design provide rich and diverse opportunities to help foster meaningful learning. Through our programs, we create vibrant opportunities for learning, through the arts, that help develop essential 21st century learning and life skills in children, Grades 1-8. And, we help build the capacity of teachers/facilitators to create more enriched learning environments for their students.

Why 21st Century Learning & Life Skills?

"21st century learning skills are increasingly being recognized as the skills that separate students who are prepared for increasingly complex life and work environments in the 21st century, and those who are not" (Partnership for 21st Century Learning). In an age where change is the only constant, understanding and applying 21st century learning skills allows children to be adaptive and innovative in responding to new demands and changing circumstances. Life skills on the other hand form the core of children's social and emotional wellbeing. And, the extent to which children are able to apply them can determine how well they adjust and respond to life's myriad experiences. These skills must be nurtured within students.

Why Creativity?

Creativity is recognized as one of the most important skills for the next generation. Its value reaches well beyond the arts to affect every discipline and numerous industries. The ability to dream, take chances, and create the things we imagine. These are the skills of entrepreneurs, innovators, and changemakers. Children are born with these exceptional abilities, but research shows that over time they begin to lose them. We must offer rich opportunities that keep children's natural creativity alive.

Why Visual Art & Design?

Research indicates that robust art & design education contributes to the development of valuable thinking skills and attitudes whose benefits extend well beyond the art room (Harvard University; Wallace Foundation). The ability to pose questions, test ideas, take creative risks, solve problems, think flexibly, deal with ambiguity, collaborate effectively, are just some of the many skills and attitudes that are developed and strengthened through engagements with art. Involvement in the arts is also associated with gains in critical thinking and communication skills. Beyond this arts learning helps improve motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork. In fact, studies show that students with high involvement in the arts, particularly those from low-income communities, stay longer and perform better in schools in comparison to those that receive no arts education.

ArtSparks Foundation presently runs its school-based programs primarily within Govt. schools across Bangalore and beyond. In the 2018-19 school year, ArtSparks has served approximately 3000 students. And, since our inception, ArtSparks has worked with over 250 teachers.

To learn more about ArtSparks, please visit: www.art-sparks.org | facebook.com/artsparksfoundation/



JOB DESCRIPTION

Role: Program Manager (Full-Time)

Purpose: The primary purpose of this role is to plan, organize, implement, and continuously improve ArtSparks' Creative Learning Lab (CLL) program. And, in doing so, to ensure adherence to processes, effectiveness of review and feedback, building capacity of facilitators, building relationships with stakeholders, and timely delivery of stakeholder expectations.

Key Responsibilities:

(Include but are not limited to)

- Conduct outreach to identify new schools for program expansion
- Manage the set up and implementation of ArtSparks' Creative Learning Lab (CLL) program within Govt. schools
- Recruit and capacity build through trainings new Lab facilitators
- Oversee, while regularly empowering and supporting Lab facilitators (both new and returning) through trainings observations visits, modeling, and coaching, to become strong instructional leaders focused on enabling their students growth and development
- Monitor and assess the implementation of the CLL program and provide feedback to strengthen the program
- Regularly collect data from the field regarding program outcomes, and report on the impact of the CLL program
- Build and manage relationships with the various stakeholders (school leaders, teachers, local education officials, parents, donors, etc.) to leverage support aimed towards achieving the vision set for the Creative Learning Labs
- Organize events related to the Creative Learning Lab program
- Other tasks as assigned

Education & Experience:

- Graduate or post-graduate degree (Education, Psychology, or Social Work preferable)
- 2 years of experience working with children in schools or through an NGO
- Any experience of conducting workshops or trainings for school teachers (Govt. schools, etc.) is an asset

Competencies:

- Possess excellent leadership and strong communication skills
- Possess the ability to influence and motivate people to work towards a common goal
- Possess a deep sense of integrity as well as personal responsibility and commitment towards your work as an education administrator working within marginalized communities
- Be self-motivated and proactive in taking initiative
- Be resilient with a can do attitude, possessing the ability to adapt and innovate in challenging situations
- Possess excellent planning, organizational and multi-tasking skills. Possess the ability to efficiently handle multiple projects and priorities in a timely manner
- Possess excellent attention to detail, and be skilled at following up
- Possess an energetic and sunny personality with a genuine interest in working within schools
- Possess patience and a deep understanding that educational change takes time and effort
- Fluent in English. Proficiency in report writing in English is an asset
- Good grasp of spoken Kannada



Location

Travel to different school sites within central Bangalore and the outer boroughs of Bangalore.

Compensation:

Salary will be commensurate with current market standards and candidate's prior experience.

Application:

We're looking for a dynamic and passionate individual to be part of our core team. Someone capable of rolling up their sleeves and actively managing, developing, and strengthen programming at our school sites. If this is you, and you're passionate about serving children, believing that they deserve an education that unlocks their creative potential, this is the place for you. We believe that great people with shared enthusiasm, commitment, and hard work, can achieve wonderful things.

To apply please email both a **cover letter** and **resume** to **employment@art-sparks.org**. In your cover letter, please mention that you are applying for the Program Manager position, and share why you think you would be a good fit for this position.