



Now Hiring: Community Organizer

An exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic advocate committed to creating healthier and stronger neighborhoods in Los Angeles.

About People for Parks

People for Parks works towards the day when all kids in Los Angeles live within walking distance of a safe park.

LA is one of the most under-parked of the big US cities. People for Parks tackles this problem by transforming schools in dense, low-income regions of LA into Community School Parks. Community School Parks (CSPs) are supervised school-site playgrounds that are open to the public on weekends, holidays, and during the summer, when public school playgrounds are otherwise closed. CSPs feature dynamic programming carried out by after-school enrichment staff and give children and families the outdoor space they need to lead healthy lives.

We believe that it takes a village to improve a neighborhood. People for Parks works closely with parents, community organizations, school principals, the LAUSD school district's Beyond the Bell program, school board members, LA City Council, and Mayor's office, as well as the LA Promise Zone to make Community School Parks a successful program.

About Our Program – The Community School Park Incubator

We have seen that the more involved parents and communities are in Community School Park activities, the more these spaces thrive and become self-sustaining. Parent and community participation increases park attendance, strengthens ties between neighbors, and allows for parent and community ownership of park spaces. With this in mind, People for Parks has launched its Community School Park Incubator, a community-driven empowerment strategy that equips parents, school staff, and neighbors with the support they need to take leadership roles and stay highly involved with park activities, maintenance and supervision. The Incubator will consist of an online resource portal and CSP Support Councils, which engage parents and staff at each of the sites.

Job Description

People for Parks is seeking a full-time community organizer to foster involvement and leadership in activities by parents, neighbors, and school staff at nine (9) new Community School Parks. Specific duties for the position include:

- Conduct community needs assessment to identify and leverage strengths among parents and community members at nine Community School Parks.
 - This includes meeting regularly and working closely with parents to learn about (a) park features that are most important to their particular community and (b) skill sets and interests among parents and neighbors that can be fostered for the benefit of the park.
 - For example, if parents at a CSP identify an interest in gardening, the community organizer is responsible for providing coordination support and other resources to help those parents enhance campus gardens, give workshops, and start clubs.
- Help form a Community School Park Support Council at each site made up of local parent leaders and school staff who are dedicated to a) promoting park attendance, vibrancy, safety and upkeep, b) empowering other parents and community members to become involved in park activities such as clubs and workshops, and c) making sure that

after-school enrichment programming - physical activity, free-play, nutrition, outdoor learning, and community building - meet community needs

- Host monthly check-in meetings with the Councils – as well as other parents and students - to get input on their role and ideas to support the park; turn those ideas into concrete goals and carry out tasks to achieve goals.
- Work with CSP Support Council as well as other parents, students, and after school enrichment staff to engage in and lead monthly organized activities at each CSP that focus on play, physical activity, nutrition, outdoor learning and/or community building, depending on community needs and interests. Examples include, but are not limited to, soccer, basketball, Zumba, aerobics, recipe exchanges, arts and crafts, recycling, and gardening.
- Coordinate with afterschool enrichment staff for fitness challenges.
- Organize quarterly CSP clean up days with parents, students, and other volunteers.
- Work with partner organizations to collaborate on greening, recreation, and/or community building events at CSPs.
- Conduct and/or coordinate fundraising training to keep parks open for additional hours and/or beyond grant periods. Includes supporting fundraisers decided upon by parents such as bake sales, for profit events or business outreach. Also includes providing hands-on guidance to parent groups interested in requesting funds from county, city, or neighborhood entities, such as neighborhood councils.
- Engage parents, teachers and stakeholders to elevate the community's voice in support of Community School Parks. Organize participation in key neighborhood, city, and district policy meetings.
- Train and educate on shared use policy.
- Keep a diligent record of parent and community participation in CSP activities and volunteer hours for grant reporting purposes. Includes interviews with parents and school staff. Keep or coordinate attendance records or sign-in sheets at events.
- Provide People for Parks staff with community engagement and organizing support as needed

Required Skills

- Bilingual in English/Spanish
- Ability to communicate effectively with a diverse set of partners
- Project management and coordination skills
- Strong familiarity with neighborhoods in which CSPs operate (including Pico Union, Harvard Heights, Westlake, South LA among others)
- Strong interpersonal skills to meet with parents during and outside park hours to establish trust and confidence of the community and become familiar with its character, needs, leaders and their interests
- Proficient in Microsoft applications (Excel, Word, PowerPoint)
- Knowledge of and/or willingness to learn how to use communications software and social media (MailChimp, NationBuilder, Facebook, Twitter)
- Familiarity with Google Apps (Mail, Docs, Sheets, Drive)
- At least 1 year experience in community organizing, public policy, urban planning, environmental science, politics, or a related field
- Associate of Arts Degree or equivalent life/professional experience

Compensation

\$20/hr. This is a contract position.

Application Process

To apply, please submit cover letter, resume, and three references to Anna Gruben, Executive Director (communityorganizer@peopleforparks.org). Accepting cover letter, resume and references through June 10, 2016 or until position has been filled.