

{SANCTUARY}

SANCTUARY VOLUNTEER ART GUIDE

OVERVIEW

FOR-SITE Foundation is looking for individuals who are passionate about art and art education, have a sincere and genuine interest in engaging with the public, love learning and teaching, and have tolerance and respect for all points of view to join our team as Volunteer Art Guides for our forthcoming exhibition, *Sanctuary*.

The notion of sanctuary—both physical and psychological—has been fundamental in shaping a sense of selfhood and social identity throughout human history. But in an era of increasing global migration and rising nationalism, the right to safe haven is under threat, and the necessity for compassion is greater than ever. For our latest presentation of art about place, we invited 36 artists from 21 different countries to design contemporary rugs reflecting on sanctuary, offering visitors a multiplicity of perspectives on the basic human need for refuge, protection, and sacred ground.

The participating artists represent diverse ideologies and backgrounds (many including experiences as migrants and refugees), but their contributions to the exhibition—which are spectacularly varied in content and design—conform to a single format, lending a unifying element that bridges racial, cultural, and religious differences. Installed on the floor of the historic Fort Mason Chapel, the four-by-six-foot wool rugs—woven in Lahore, Pakistan, using traditional materials and hand-knotting techniques—call to mind traditional prayer rugs, but they transcend religious connotations, encompassing thoughtful viewpoints on cultural identity, sense of place, and belonging. The rugs are meant to be appreciated by touch as well as sight; visitors are encouraged to remove shoes and walk, sit, and recline on the artworks—to quietly contemplate our shared humanity and this space of sanctuary.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Sanctuary Volunteer Art Guides will be responsible for providing all aspects of visitor service to exhibition visitors, including answering visitor questions and providing information about the exhibition site, participating artists, and the conceptual themes at work in the exhibition. Art Guides will also monitor the exhibition space for visitor flow and safety, as well as general artwork and site maintenance.

Q U A L I F I C A T I O N S

A working knowledge of contemporary art is helpful, but not required. Candidates must have a genuine appreciation for all visitors, and be able to convey information in a clear, concise, and articulate manner. An ability to converse in more than one language is a plus; Italian, French, German, Spanish, and Chinese speakers are encouraged to apply.

T I M E C O M M I T M E N T

Exhibition dates: October 7, 2017–March 11, 2018

Exhibition hours: Wednesday–Sunday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Art Guides are expected to be available for one 3.5-hour shift each week, and should be able to make this minimum commitment for the duration of the exhibition.

T R A I N I N G + O R I E N T A T I O N

Art Guides will be trained in a range of subjects, including Fort Mason history, general Fort Mason information, artists' backgrounds, artwork fabrication processes, techniques for visitor engagement and facilitating dialogue, videos, background reading, and other activities. Resource materials will be provided.

For more information and to apply for this position, please contact:

Jackie von Treskow
Program Director
FOR-SITE Foundation
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The FOR-SITE Foundation strives to engage a volunteer network reflective of the community it serves. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, gender, national or ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, or physical disability. All interested individuals are encouraged to apply.