



Octavia Project Lead Teacher 2024 Summer Institute

About Us

The Octavia Project uses the creative power of speculative fiction and community to imagine new worlds. Our inspiration and namesake is Octavia E. Butler, who broke barriers in the traditionally white men's world of science fiction to become an award-winning and internationally recognized author. Drawing inspiration from her practice which explores themes of racial, gender, and environmental justice, our Brooklyn teens participate in rich, interdisciplinary workshops that blend creative writing, art, science, and technology to encourage critical thinking, build confidence, and develop skills in a myriad of subjects.

Our free Summer Institute is made up of 20-25 NYC-based young women and trans, nonbinary, gender nonconforming, and questioning youth ages 14-18. In our workshops, art and writing integrate science and tech, focusing on creativity, innovation, exploration, storytelling, and critical thinking, while developing computer programming skills, world building strategies, and digital media literacy. Teens meet architects, biologists, computer programmers, city planners, authors, and artists, providing them deep exposure and connections to multiple disciplines and possible career paths. We aim to provide a rich, rigorous summer while creating a community rooted in joy, compassion, acceptance, and self-love.

Position Description

We are looking for two Summer Institute Lead Teachers to join our team and work with us to develop and execute our tenth annual Summer Institute in 2024.

With the support of program staff, Lead Teachers will collaboratively facilitate our Summer Institute, composed of five weeks of interdisciplinary workshops. Lead teachers and program staff work together to create a rigorous summer enrichment program that encourages participants to build new worlds in their writings and communities and fosters a rich and vibrant community among participants.

Summer Institute 2024 will run for five weeks, from July 15 to August 15. Institute workshops run Monday through Thursday in person at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

Responsibilities:

- Developing original curricula and adapting existing lesson plans while adhering to Octavia Project pedagogy
- Reading our Summer Book Club selection, and preparing related discussions and lesson plans
- Working with program staff to finalize and review all Summer Institute 2024 lesson plans
- Collaboratively executing all aspects of the Octavia Project Summer Institute 2024 workshops
- Becoming familiar with all aspects of each workshop curriculum and coming prepared to lead daily activities
- Supporting Fellows in their roles as community leaders and mentors, including facilitating weekly meetings with Fellows
- Assisting guest educators during their workshops
- Working with staff to carry out the culminating Summer Showcase
- Mentoring young women and trans, nonbinary, gender non-conforming, and questioning youth

Time Commitment and Compensation:

- Curriculum development, \$28.50/hr:
 - Up to 30 hours between mid-March and early July 2024; approximately half of the hours will be team meetings, including prep meetings the week before the program starts
- Facilitating summer program, \$43.50/hr:
 - Program runs four hours a day, plus one hour of set up/ clean-up/ prep time each day, with a culminating Summer Showcase on the last day of the program
 - The Summer Institute is scheduled to run for five week, July 15 through August 15, Monday-Thursday
 - There will also be one four-hour workshop, plus one-hour prep, one Saturday in June
 - Weekly 45-min debrief meetings with program staff
 - Weekly 45-min Fellows Debrief meetings

Qualifications/Requirements:

- At least two years of experience developing curricula and facilitating workshops with teens/ young adults
- Demonstrated commitment to creating safe and affirming environments for LGBTQ+ BIPOC youth

- Outstanding organizational and collaborative skills; flexible, self-motivated, and able to work independently
- Familiarity with Google Apps
- An interest in speculative fiction as a tool for imagining and building futures
- Must be able to commute to Institute site during the summer
- Must be fully vaccinated for COVID19 and provide proof of vaccination
- Must submit to a background check

To apply:

Submit cover letter and resume to info@octaviaproject.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis through March 27, 2024.

The Octavia Project is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of age, creed, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, marital status, disability, military status, domestic violence victim status, predisposing genetic characteristics, or any other category protected by law.