Job Announcement:
Graphic Designer/Artist

Department: Exhibits
Reports to: Executive Director
Location: San Diego, CA

Position: Contracted

About: The AjA Project is a nonprofit organization headquartered in San Diego, California, that utilizes photography-based educational programs to transform the lives of displaced youth. Utilizing participatory photography methods, AjA’s after-school and in-school programs encourage youth to think critically about their identities, increase their social capacities and see themselves as agents of personal and social transformation. Since its founding in 2000, AjA has provided long-term, community-based programming for over 1,300 displaced youth, and has shared their visual narratives with over 1 million viewers. In 2008, AjA received the prestigious Coming Up Taller award for excellence in youth programming, an award presided over by the President of the United States’ Committee for the Arts and Humanities. Learn more about The AjA Project at www.ajaproject.org.

Position Summary: As a visual arts agency, AjA works continuously to ensure that the work of our students is brought to the community in the form of public art and exhibits. The Graphic Designer/Artist will be responsible for creating physical representations of AjA’s vision and philosophy as well as students’ voices and expressions. This work will be used in public art installations, exhibits, social media, fundraising campaigns and website galleries. The ideal candidate will possess both technical and creative skills, with an emphasis on creativity.

Essential Functions include, but are not limited to:

Design-
• Conceptualize public art-works based on student voice and site specific constraints
• Design and present proposal to AjA team for input and collaboration
• Follow existing artistic direction of AjA when designing projects
• Work with vendors to produce art-works and final product

Exhibits-
• Conceptualize gallery and/or travelling exhibits for alternative spaces and formats
• Create an artist rendering and mockup for each exhibit opportunity
• Submit a budget of all expenses for approval
• Work closely with exhibit site staff to coordinate exhibit logistics and installation

Miscellaneous Design Projects-
• Design, coordinate and produce any marketing or advertising materials for AjA events, exhibitions, campaigns, etc.
• Assist with other design projects as requested

Knowledge, Skills and Experience:
• Expert knowledge of design programs such as CS5.5 (Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator)
• Knowledge of typography and experience in photo editing
• Attention to detail
• Ability to meet deadlines and stay within project budgets
• Ability to work within a given space to create art
**Other Requirements:**
- Minimum of two years experience in graphic design
- Experience quoting and managing print jobs, as well as working with printers
- Previous experience with non-profit sector a plus
- Experience working in deadline-driven environments
- Associate of Arts degree or related field
- Ability to work independently, set priorities, and complete work timely and accurately
- A personal connection to the arts and providing arts education to at-risk youth a definite plus
- Open to feedback and discussion around projects

**Physical Requirements:**
The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. Must be able to perform tasks which involve the ability to exert light physical effort in sedentary to light work on a regular basis. Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds. Tasks may involve extended periods of time at a keyboard or workstation.

**Application Procedure:**
Application Deadline: Open until filled

Please submit a thoughtful cover letter, resume and work sample to: comments@ajaproject.org with “Graphic Designer/Artist” in the subject line. Please, no phone calls or walk-ins.

The AjA Project is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race/ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, veteran status, or age.