



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

### ART DOCENT

#### ***Are you passionate about parks, art, nature, history and interacting with people?***

Join like-minded volunteers, park professionals and arts organizations to welcome the public to enjoy and explore the Presidio through the artist's lens. We are looking for Art Docent volunteers who are excited to engage with a broad range of individuals and groups in welcoming the public to explore the Presidio.

#### **POSITION OVERVIEW**

The Presidio Trust is looking for enthusiastic individuals who have a passion for art, the natural and cultural history of the Presidio and San Francisco, and a desire to share this knowledge with the public. Responsibilities of an Art Docent will include welcoming the public, providing information to park visitors, lead or co-lead tours, support with way-finding, describe available programs and visitor services, and general knowledge of the Presidio. The opportunities for docents include activities in both stationary indoor and outdoor settings, as well as outdoor walking tours. Art Docents will serve as ambassadors for the entire Presidio, helping to encourage the public to explore this unique national park.

Art Docents support the Presidio Trust Park Programs Department which oversees public programming and events intended to welcome the public and provide meaningful and memorable park experiences to people of all ages and backgrounds. Specifically, the Park Programs team oversees art, recreation & wellness, signature outdoor events and community programs. The team also manages special park uses/permitting, and in December 2016 in partnership with the National Park Service and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy will support the new Presidio Visitor Center.

#### **ART IN THE PRESIDIO**

Parks are inherently public and democratic places – a natural platform for artistic expression – so it is easy to see why there is a long tradition of art in parks. The Presidio has a rich and complex landscape filled with many layers of natural and human history. This combination provides a powerful platform for the creation and exhibition of site-based art. Since 2008, the Presidio Trust in partnership with art organizations and artists have been experimenting with art as a way to invite the public to enjoy their park in new ways – to spark curiosity and wonder about place and encourage people to explore the Presidio physically, intellectually, and emotionally. During that time, the Trust has hosted over 10 exhibits and welcomed more than one hundred thousand visitors to discover the park through art and associated programming including artist walks and talks, self-guided audio tours, participatory art and art classes, performing art, etc. The majority of these exhibitions have been temporary, and in total more than twenty artists have participated. In addition to these temporary exhibitions, ***Goldsworthy in the Presidio***, is the collection of 4 works by world-renown site-specific artist Andy Goldsworthy. Goldsworthy uses natural materials such as branches, leaves, stones, and even ice to create works that capture the essence of the places they were made. The Presidio is now home to the largest collection of his works on public view in North America.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Greet and welcome the public to *Tree Fall* and *Earth Wall* by Andy Goldsworthy, including background on the history of the building and surroundings, Presidio Forest, Presidio Art Program, artist, and making of the artwork
- Answer questions about the Presidio, the Presidio Trust, art within the park, the FOR-SITE Foundation, other partner organizations, artists and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Interact with the public in a professional, friendly, informative manner that represents the Presidio Trust in a positive way
- Assist with visitor tracking and feedback
- Use tablet technology to enhance visitor experience
- Support and co-lead guided walks of *Tree Fall*, *Spire*, *Wood Line*, *Earth Wall*, and/or other art exhibitions in the park
- Support periodic public programs associated with temporary art installations, including greeting visitors, assisting with guided walks led by artists or resource experts, helping to staff an evening lecture or other events which may include large groups of people, and staffing information tables or Roving Ranger (mobile trailhead)
- Become knowledgeable about the Presidio including its history, projects, programs, dining, lodging, museums, art exhibits/installations, landmarks, the locations of restrooms and water, schedule and stop locations for the free PresidiGo shuttle system, relevant MUNI routes, and other visitor services and programs

## **COMMITMENT EXPECTED**

Two 3-hour shifts/month on weekends and/or weekdays for at least one year. Docents must attend at least six training sessions and shadow two, 3-hour shifts within the first three months of the position.

## **REQUIRED**

- Excellent interpersonal, public speaking and communication skills
- General interest in the Presidio and art/art about place
- Comfortable with standing/sitting for long periods of time
- Ability to read maps and provide directions and have good way finding skills
- Access to email and a computer for communication and to access online training materials
- Willingness to wear Presidio Trust volunteer attire, including a vest, jacket, hat and nametag
- Positive attitude
- Reliable

## **TRAINING**

Art Docents will be provided with a series of six training sessions on weekday nights and weekend days, starting October 2016. Trainings will be provided by the Presidio Trust and various partners. The training program covers a range of subjects including Presidio history, general Presidio information, detailed information on art in the Presidio, touring techniques, guided walks, videos, background reading, field trips, shuttle tours, and other activities. Resource materials will be provided. After the training sessions, Art Docents will shadow 2 shifts with an experienced Art Docent or Presidio Trust intern or staff member.

Enrichment opportunities are offered periodically after the initial training sessions to promote continued learning. Enrichment opportunities explore themes relevant to the volunteer position including behind the scenes tours, talks with park specialists, or enjoying social time with other volunteers, staff, and partners.

### **WHY APPLY**

- Support your national park
- Opportunity to expand your knowledge of the Presidio, Presidio-based art, and many other visitor-oriented programs, services and facilities
- Assist local, national and international visitors develop a better understanding and enjoyment of the park
- Improve your health by being outdoors and active
- Make new friends and join a growing volunteer community dedicated to stewarding the Presidio and making it a welcoming place for park visitors

### **TO APPLY**

Send an email to [volunteer@presidiotrust.gov](mailto:volunteer@presidiotrust.gov) and our Volunteer Program Coordinator will get back to you with instructions for applying.

### **ABOUT THE PRESIDIO + THE PRESIDIO TRUST**

Guardian of the Golden Gate for more than 200 years, the Presidio of San Francisco is a place of service and possibility. Now a distinctive part of the national park system, this magnificent American landmark invites visitors to be inspired by its beauty and to participate in a variety of programs that draw on its history and natural resources. The Presidio is also home to a vibrant community of people who work and live in the park. The Presidio is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, one of the world's largest national parks in an urban setting, spanning over 80,000 acres north and south of San Francisco's Golden Gate.

The Presidio Trust is an innovative federal agency created to save the Presidio and transform it for a new national purpose. The Trust's vision is that the Presidio will be forever a public place: vital to the Bay Area, important to all Americans, and recognized for achieving broad benefits for the nation. To learn more, visit [www.presidio.gov](http://www.presidio.gov).