VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Art Docent

Primary Contact: Libby Zazzer, Volunteer Engagement Specialist

Work Location: Tree Fall, Main Post of the Presidio

Project Duration: Volunteers are asked to commit to one year in the position

Minimum hours per month: 2, three-hour shifts per month

Age Requirement: Over 18 years old

JOIN US!
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.

POSITION OVERVIEW
We are seeking Art Docent volunteers who are excited and curious to learn and explore the Presidio and help a broad range of individuals to do the same. Art Docents 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. Art Docents welcome the public, provide information to park visitors, lead or co-lead tours, support with way-finding, describe available programs and visitor services, and share 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. After completing the initial training, Art Docents may participate in additional trainings to further develop skills to co-lead art focused tours.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

• Greet and welcome the public to Tree Fall 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

• 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 options, 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
- Assist with visitor tracking and feedback using a clicker and iPad technology
- Provide feedback about your volunteer experiences to park staff
- Track your volunteer shift hours and independent hours using tablet technology

**COMMITMENT EXPECTED**
- Two, 3-hour shifts/month on weekends for at least one year. *Tree Fall* is open on Saturdays and Sundays. Regular hours are from 10 am – 4 pm (winter hours are from 12:00 pm – 3 pm). We have a strong need to fill shifts on Sundays.
- Attend initial volunteer open house/orientation
- Complete all initial training sessions
- Complete a minimum of two enrichments/continuing education events per year

**REQUIRED**
- Ability to represent the Presidio Trust in a professional and positive manner
- 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
- Establish and maintain effective working and cooperative relationship with members of the public, staff, interns and other volunteers
- 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
- Bilingual language skills a plus

**TRAINING**
Training is provided and consists of a series of 4-6 sessions on weekday nights and weekend days. Training will be provided by the Presidio Trust and various partners. Core content topics include: Presidio history, general Presidio information, customer service and working with different audiences. Additional information, resources and training can include: art in the Presidio, guided walks, working with youth, background reading, shuttle tours and other activities. Resource materials will be provided.
Art Docents are required to attend one shadow shift before the training begins and two shadow shifts after training is completed with an experienced Art Docent or Presidio Trust staff member.

Once the above training and shadow shifts are completed, Art Docents will be invited to participate in additional training to learn how to co-lead the 2.7-mile *Goldsworthy in the Presidio* Guided Art Hike.
Enrichment opportunities are offered monthly 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.

**BENEFITS**
- Support your national park
- Become an actively engaged volunteer who makes a difference
- Opportunity to expand your knowledge of the Presidio, serve different audiences, learn about Presidio-based art, and learn more about many other visitor-oriented experiences.
- 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**
Fill out a volunteer application [here](#). Questions? Contact [volunteer@presidiotrust.gov](mailto:volunteer@presidiotrust.gov) or call 415-561-5332.

**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 part of the national park system, this 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). Art Docents support the Presidio Trust’s Visitor Engagement 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 Visitor Engagement team oversees art, recreation & wellness, interpretation, education, signature outdoor events and community programs. The team also manages special park uses/permitting, and the Presidio Visitor Center in partnership with the National Park Service and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

**ABOUT 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 several exhibits and welcomed many 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. In addition to these temporary exhibitions, **Goldsworthy in the Presidio** is the collection of four 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.