



Part Time Freelance Head Gardener – Boundary Gardens

A fantastic opportunity has arisen for a Head Gardener to work in an historic urban garden on the doorstep of the City of London.

We are seeking a knowledgeable, confident, reliable and personable Head Gardener who is a self-starter, not afraid of hard work and can communicate well with others. You will be passionate about gardening, always eager to develop the gardens and to maintain relationships with our multiple stakeholders.

Who we are:

The Friends of Arnold Circus (FOAC) is a registered charity which solely exists to protect a much-loved public green space at the heart of the Boundary Estate in Shoreditch. Neglected for decades, Boundary Gardens (the official name) was rescued, brought back to life, and is now sustained and championed entirely by the Friends of Arnold Circus, with the help of the professional part-time Head Gardener and a dedicated group of volunteers.

The constant care lavished on the gardens is all directed by our Head Gardener working in close partnership with the Trustees and guiding/supporting the volunteers to tend to the gardens, plant for the future and maintain the year-round delight of Arnold Circus.

Following the retirement of the previous incumbent Andy Willoughby, the Friends are seeking an experienced Head Gardener to help maintain the gardens as an oasis of calm and an escape from the ever-encroaching concrete jungle – an escape that has proved even more vital during this pandemic as the local community has made even greater use of the space as an “outside room”, a place for relaxation and escape or for leisure.

The successful applicant must be skilled in all aspects of gardening and be keen to build on and develop what has been achieved to date in this much-loved, well-established garden.

The Role:

- Responsible for all aspects of horticulture, general maintenance and garden management of the park area surrounding the listed Bandstand on Arnold Circus - the central focus of the whole Boundary Estate - creating a garden environment that is enjoyable, safe, and secure for residents and visitors.
- Planning a quarterly timetable for maintenance work and planting.
- Continuing the maintenance and development of the “Wildlife Superhighway” to encourage greater biodiversity in/around the gardens.
- Directing, advising and supporting all the FOAC gardening volunteers who give their time regularly on Friday afternoons and on specific activities (such as bark spreading, leaf clean-ups, etc.) during the year.
- Overseeing the maintenance and care of the equipment supplied to volunteers.
- Liaise regularly with the FOAC Trustees and the Gardening Sub-committee on progress and forward planning, including attending and reporting to Trustee meetings.
- Liaise regularly with key stakeholders at London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) including Parks, Estates, and Waste Management over requests for help with/monitoring of rubbish clearance, maintenance and infrastructure, keeping Arnold Circus clean and safe and free from vandalism.
- Produce short weekly activity reports with photographs and share them via the Friends’ Facebook and Instagram accounts (training provided if needed).

Essential skills, interests and qualities:

- Takes pride in and is passionate about their work.
- Shares the Friends’ commitment to biodiversity, community engagement and has a vision for the future development of the gardens.
- Is reliable and professional.
- Competent and able to manage the physical requirements of the job. The work involves a lot of manual labour using handheld tools and the gardens are spread over 4 tiers of terraces that are only accessible by stairs.
- Has a good knowledge of botany and horticulture.
- Is knowledgeable about planting and which plants work best in specific habitats/soils – especially as many areas of the gardens are in deep shade.
- Is comfortable with working outdoors in all weathers and seasons – whether it’s a sunny 35C or 2C and pouring with rain!
- Has experience working with teams/volunteers.

- Has the ability and aptitude to pass on own skills/knowledge and educate our volunteers as well as an eagerness to further develop and improve own skills/knowledge.
- Knowledge and experience of implementing health and safety rules and legislation ensuring a safe working environment for everyone working in or using the garden.
- Willing to “muck in” and get things done, even things which are the responsibility of others such as clearing drains or rubbish clearance and emergency repairs/maintenance of irrigation system.

Desirable skills, interests and qualities

- Horticultural qualification.
- First Aid qualification.
- Knowledge of organic gardening methods and techniques.
- Creativity and an eye for detail.
- Experience of identifying pests and diseases.
- Experience using social media.
- DBS basic check.

Remuneration

The position is part time – approximately 20 hours per month – but this will vary seasonally. The hourly rate is £30.

The successful applicant will be responsible for their own tax/NI and professional indemnity insurance. Payment will be on submission of a monthly invoice submitted within 7 days of the end of the month.

Application Procedure:

Please explore our website at <http://www.arnoldcircus.co.uk/>

Email your CV and a covering letter to helloarnoldcircus@gmail.com setting out how you meet the criteria for the role. Please also say what you would most like to do/change at Arnold Circus and why.

Application deadline: 18/09/2020

Expected start date: 02/10/2020