WILMINGTON PLAY STREETS FELLOW - UNDERGRADUATE

REPORTS TO: COUNCILWOMAN RYSHEEMA DIXON, WILMINGTON PLAY STREETS TEAM LEAD

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Wilmington Play Streets summer program temporarily closes a neighborhood block to traffic and provides play equipment to create safe, fun, and healthy spaces for children, families and neighbors to connect and play right outside their doors. It gives kids of all ages more space to be active. Play Streets can help build community cohesion, make neighborhoods feel safer and support local businesses. The Parks and Recreation Department delivers simple equipment like balls, jump ropes, hula hoops, portable basketball hoops, soccer goals, mini-golf tees, and badminton nets for unstructured play. Additional City departments and units including Public Works, Wilmington Police Dept., Community Outreach, Finance, Communications, the Mayor’s Office, and City Council work together with Parks and Recreation to provide logistical and operational support to the program. Community partners including community centers, churches, schools, non-profits, social services, youth-serving organizations, healthcare systems and local businesses are coordinated to provide services (i.e. healthy snacks, water, music, health screenings, EMT services, structured activity hubs, and volunteer support).

POSITION SUMMARY

Wilmington Parks and Recreation is seeking a Wilmington Play Streets Undergraduate Fellow during the spring and summer of 2019 to support the Wilmington Play Streets Planning Team. This position is designed to help advance the student’s education and scholarship through community work in a mutually-beneficial partnership. The Undergraduate Fellow will work alongside city and community partners and with neighborhood ambassadors to assist in the planning, adaptation, implementation and evaluation of Wilmington Play Streets. The Undergraduate Fellow will be instrumental in applying his/her scholarship in order to advise the Wilmington Play Streets Planning Team on the best available evidence on Play Streets, including best practices for institutionalizing and/or sustaining the strategy, and supporting the planning team in adhering to program fidelity and/or making decisions about adaptations. This position is paid for 10 hours a week in the spring and 40 hours a week in the summer. Evening and some weekend hours are required, especially during the summer. The typical summer fellowship is 12 weeks long.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Working on a degree in health behavior science, public health, organizational and community leadership, public policy, sociology, psychology, civil engineering, management, or related discipline.
2. Strong written and oral communication skills.
3. Attention to detail and willingness to learn.
4. Proficient in MS Office software suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
5. Ability to function independently and as a team member.
6. Flexible and proactive in taking on assignments and responsibilities, and willingness to learn.
7. Knowledge base of community and social issues, and knowledge or experience working in community-based programs, city government and/or public health sector preferred.

8. Ability to work in outdoor weather conditions.

9. Ability to lift 25 pound items to a height of 3-4 feet and load in and out of vehicles

10. Ability to pass a criminal background check

11. Valid driver’s license and a clean driving record with the ability to travel.

12. Access to reliable transportation is required.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Assist with program adaptations to improve and institutionalize the program by developing a Wilmington Play Streets Manual that can support a neighborhood-driven model and also works to integrate a community trauma-informed approach, aligning with efforts for Delaware to become a trauma-informed state through Executive Order 24 signed by Gov. Carney in October 2018.

2. Serve as part of a Wilmington Play Streets leadership team to formalize agreements within city government that will support efforts to institutionalize Play Streets (i.e. Public works, Police, Communications, Finance, etc.);

3. Assist in the development and execution of an implementation and evaluation plan using the best available evidence and tailored to Wilmington’s community needs

4. Assist in developing and delivering a training program to neighborhood ambassadors, city and community partners

5. Provide on-site implementation support and data collection at Play Street events in city neighborhoods

6. Work with all Play Street partners to engage in continuous quality improvement since the program’s pilot launch in 2018

7. Collect and analyze evaluation data; Provide evaluation report and recommendations for Year 3 including revisions to written products (i.e. program guides, materials, and/or training curricula);

8. Assist with community engagement and outreach activities within the Parks and Recreation Department and City of Wilmington

9. Collaborate with spring Graduate Intern on literature reviews, program adaptations and evaluation

10. Other duties as reasonably assigned.

TO APPLY

Please send cover letter outlining skills and interests and resume to: Rysheema Dixon at playstreetinfo@wilmingtonde.gov. If you have questions, please call (302) 635-0767

The Wilmington Play Streets Fellowship is provided by the UD Partnership for Healthy Communities through the generous support of the McCarter Family Public Health Fund.