

Part-time Volunteer Manager of Children's Garden at Historic Bartow-Pell

Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is launching a pilot children's gardening program in the spring of 2012 and is seeking a part-time volunteer with horticultural and education experience to manage it. This unpaid position offers a unique opportunity for individuals with interest in horticulture, education, environmental sustainability and/or non-profit organizations. There is potential for the position to become a paid one if funding is secured.

Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum (BPMM) is a historic house museum located in the northeast corner of the Bronx's Pelham Bay Park. It is owned by the City of New York Parks & Recreation and operated by the Bartow-Pell Conservancy, a private non-profit organization. Its mission is to create a vibrant cultural site through the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of the property and grounds for the benefit of the public. This is achieved by protecting, preserving, and restoring the site's architecture, landscape, and collections; interpreting its history in compelling and innovative ways; and creating dynamic education programs for school children, adults, and families.

The history of the site dates to 1654 when Thomas Pell purchased 9,000 acres of what is now the Bronx and Lower Westchester from the Siwanoy (band of Lenape) Indians. The mansion was built by Pell descendent Robert Bartow in the early 1840s. The property was annexed along with a number of other grand country estates on Pelham Bay by the City of New York in the late 1880s to create Pelham Bay Park. After several decades of neglect, the International Garden Club, now the Bartow-Pell Conservancy, obtained a license from the city in 1914 to use the mansion as its headquarters in exchange for restoring it. The mansion was opened to the public as a historic house museum in 1946.

A small (roughly 30' x 36') garden is planned for the spring to provide schoolchildren, scouts, and eventually individual children with opportunities for hands-on gardening in the context of the local history of the area. The garden will be divided into sections highlighting different eras of gardening, beginning with a Native American Three Sister's Garden, and featuring a series of flower and herb borders, and plots for individual children.

The role of the Children's Garden manager is to help develop both the garden and the programs associated with it. Tasks include:

- Assisting with the curriculum creation
- Working with other volunteers to lead school programs Mondays and Fridays
- Preparation, planting, and maintenance of the garden
- Helping procure materials for the garden (tools, seeds, etc.)

Qualifications:

- Must be able and willing to work outdoors
- Experience in the areas of education, botany, environmental studies or related fields preferred
- Demonstrated knowledge of organic gardening techniques
- Experience working with children
- Must be an independent self-starter with the ability to work both alone and in groups

If interested, send cover letter with "Children's Garden Volunteer Manager" in subject line and resume to info@bpmm.org. No phone calls.