

Horticulturist

Sankofa Community Development Corporation (Sankofa CDC)

About Sankofa CDC

Sankofa CDC is a community-based nonprofit organization in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans dedicated to environmental stewardship, food justice, health equity, and economic development. Through our gardens, wetland park, Fresh Start Market, and educational programming, we cultivate land, leadership, and community resilience.

About the Position

The Horticulturist is responsible for the cultivation, management, and health of plants across Sankofa CDC's garden sites and green spaces. This role supports food production, environmental education, landscape design, and long-term soil health. The Horticulturist ensures that all garden and planting areas are maintained at a high standard of quality, sustainability, and productivity.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Plant Cultivation and Care
- Propagate, plant, water, prune, and maintain vegetables, herbs, flowers, and native plants
- Oversee plant health in garden beds, greenhouse spaces, and nursery areas
- Monitor plant growth cycles and adjust care plans accordingly
- Ensure high survival and yield rates across sites

Pest and Disease Management

- Identify and diagnose plant diseases, pest infestations, and nutrient deficiencies
- Implement integrated pest management (IPM) practices
- Apply organic or sustainable treatment methods when appropriate
- Maintain records of pest and disease interventions

Soil and Nutrition Management

- Assess soil health and recommend amendments
- Apply compost, fertilizers, and soil conditioners as needed
- Support compost system development and nutrient cycling practices
- Monitor irrigation systems to ensure proper water distribution

Landscape Design and Maintenance

- Support design and installation of functional and aesthetic garden spaces
- Maintain landscaped areas, raised beds, and demonstration plots
- Coordinate seasonal planting transitions
- Ensure overall visual and environmental quality of garden spaces

Research, Planning, and Development

- Assist in developing planting schedules and crop rotation plans
- Support introduction of new plant varieties for increased yield, resilience, or educational value
- Track plant performance and harvest data
- Contribute to garden planning aligned with organizational programming

Education and Consulting Support

- Support educational programming related to horticulture and food production
- Provide guidance to volunteers and program participants during service days
- Assist with demonstrations related to plant care and cultivation
- Communicate horticultural practices clearly to non-technical audiences

Qualifications

- Degree or certification in horticulture, botany, agriculture, environmental science, or related field preferred
- Strong knowledge of plant identification and plant biology
- Experience with soil health and irrigation systems
- Familiarity with integrated pest management practices
- Ability to operate basic gardening tools and light machinery
- Ability to work outdoors in varying weather conditions

Work Environment

This position primarily works outdoors in garden and greenhouse settings across Sankofa CDC properties.