



RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments is recruiting for its first AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer to do creative placemaking in rural Central Oklahoma.

POSITION TITLE:

Economic Development Research Assistant VISTA - 2018

Help improve the economy in Central Oklahoma's economically distressed rural communities by identifying the best opportunities for formal and comprehensive creative placemaking.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will identify a specific rural community in Central Oklahoma with a population under 7,000 that holds significant, documented and verifiable potential for application of principles of creative placemaking as a means of addressing economic distress, attracting new business and industry, and improving shared quality of life. Over the course of the service, the VISTA will conduct ground exploration; traditional research; data collection; surveys; storytelling and analyses to identify the best opportunities for creative placemaking success in Central Oklahoma.

The VISTA will have the opportunity to help coordinate and formulate formal creative placemaking and the critical storytelling that accompanies it in at least one rural community in Central Oklahoma. Their service will potentially be part of a game-changing initiative that will improve the economy of the town(s), enhance community pride, alleviate poverty, reduce unemployment, provide meaningful opportunities for the creative class and invite greater business investment in the region and community at hand.

This project is sponsored by the Austin Regional Office (AURO) of the Economic Development Administration (EDA), and will be directly supervised by the Central Oklahoma Economic Development District which managed by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments in Oklahoma City. The overall EDA Mission is "to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy."

MEMBER DUTIES

The VISTA will work directly with ACOG staff, including public relations, community development, economic development and transportation planning as well as local, state and federal and nonprofit partners, both rural and urban, to conduct qualitative and quantitative research in an effort to identify the best candidate(s) for rural, and if time allows, suburban placemaking in the Central Oklahoma region. The VISTA's research will involve writing plans and reports; conducting analyses; making presentations; implementing robust storytelling, and informing critical decision-making about the local economic development needs and creative placemaking opportunities. Over the course of the service, the VISTA will partner with local, state, federal and nonprofit partners to problem-solve, recommend placemaking activities, and identify potential resources, including, but not limited to,

grantors, investors, artists, makers and culture bearers for the identified communities. The economic development capacity built by the VISTA will provide the communities the tools to build job opportunities for community members and improve shared quality of life.

EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

We are looking for a driven, focused, innovative, intelligent and thoughtful VISTA with a positive attitude and desire to improve the lives of others to introduce large-scale creative placemaking in small and suburban communities in Central Oklahoma. The ideal candidate will hold a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, Journalism, Public Relations, Marketing, Business, Planning, or another related discipline.

KEY SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Excellent Written and Oral Communication Skills
- Excellent Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills
- Knowledge of public relations including research, planning, implementation and evaluation and the 10-step PR process.
- Understanding of Diffusion of Innovation and Classes of Adopters
- Excellent Research Skills
- Excellent Storytelling Abilities
- Knowledge of Creative Placemaking
- Experience working with creatives including, but not limited to artists, musicians, makers, etc.
- Experience working with local governments, particularly rural
- Knowledge of Central Oklahoma including socioeconomic challenges, political culture and other sensitivities of populations.
- Knowledge of Councils of Governments
- Grant writing experience, preferred but not required
- Knowledge of CDBG, NEA, ArtsPlace and other local, state and federal grant programs and foundations highly preferred, but not required.
- Program management experience
- Photography skills preferred, but not required
- Wordpress skills preferred, but not required
- Social media skills preferred, but not required
- Must live in Central Oklahoma for duration of the project.
- Must have reliable transportation

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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AmeriCorps Listing



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