Position Description

“Cultural organizing exists at the intersection of art and activism. It is a fluid and dynamic practice that is understood and expressed in a variety of ways, reflecting the unique cultural, artistic, organizational, and community context of its practitioners. Cultural organizing is about integrating arts and culture into organizing strategies. It is also about organizing from a particular tradition, cultural identity, community of place, or worldview.” -- Arts and Democracy Project, 2011

The SEAD Project is gearing up for a critical 2020 and are looking for two dedicated and passionate cultural organizers to engage and produce impact in two issue areas: safety & healing justice and political education & language justice. Cultural organizers should be seasoned in the issue areas, are deeply justice oriented, grasp Southeast Asian cultural identities, and understand the power and role of art, advocacy, and cultural assets in strategy and narrative to move collective consensus and action.

Location: Minneapolis / socially distant
Hours: 20-25 hours per week
Compensation: $25 per hour. This is currently contract-basis with the possibility of extending through 2021.
Timeline: October 2020 - January 2021

Role & Responsibilities
Cultural Organizers will work together as a team and collaborate with impacted communities and SEAD’s creative team to lead and strategize on overall cultural production, creative direction, engagement strategy, and mobilization efforts on political education (digitally and socially distant). Core responsibilities will be:

- Develop, plan, and implement creative short to long term outreach and engagement strategies on specific areas: public safety, elections, mental health, immigration, and in-language political education for Southeast Asian communities
- Cultivate and deepen relationships with stakeholders such as impacted communities, public officials, community leaders, artists, and other aligned organizations to grow base and collective consciousness
- Coordinate, engage, educate, and mobilize Southeast Asian communities towards collective action, virtually and socially distant in-person through events, workshops, toolkits, etc
Attend stakeholder meetings, trainings as needed
Track progress and do reporting on regular basis

Skills & Qualifications
Experience in cultural organizing and knowledge about cultural and narrative strategy is required. Must be highly creative, strategic, organized, problem-solver, communicative, initiator, and analytical. Proficiency in tech tools, arts, culture, and political education is key. Knowledge of communication tools and platforms is vital. Must be excellent with written and verbal communication skills and adapting to cultural nuances from a decolonized lens. Must be unafraid to take initiative and think outside the box and against the status quo. Must understand the noted issue areas above. Deep relationships with diverse team and POCl communities, especially with Southeast Asian refugee and immigrant communities is critical. Practicing artist, activist, and facilitation skills are definite plus.

To Apply:
Send a letter of interest indicating which issue areas you prefer, resume, and 2-3 creative samples such as art and/or writing pieces on campaigns, toolkits, etc that reflect cultural organizing work, and two references to Katherine Nguyen at katherine@theseadproject.org.
Deadline to apply is September 30th, 2020.

What We Expect
• You are self-motivated, detail-oriented, and show up ready as your authentic self.
• You care for Southeast Asian communities, their self-determination, and the organizations that see it through.
• You love political education, storytelling, and cultural organizing that centers communities and shifts attitudes and behaviors that move towards collective action.
• You aren’t afraid to ask questions and assumptions.
• You value decolonized ways of working, deep relationship building, and the communities we work with and alongside with.
• You pride yourself in being highly organized and one of your superpowers is speaking to community.
• You take initiative and are a fast and engaged learner.
• You practice self-empathy and handle conflict and challenges with grace and understanding.
• You know how to work with sometimes limited resources, multiple stakeholders, and thrive in an emerging environment.

What You Should Expect
• You will be equipped with the tools and training you need to succeed in your role.
• Your colleagues (SEAD and community-at-large) come from multiple backgrounds, perspectives, lived experiences and talents.
• You will be respected, supported, and championed personally and professionally.
• You will be treated like family through check-ins, conversations, outings, retreats, and homemade meals.
• You will contribute to the ideal work culture and ecosystem (in which we call the ikigai).

Organization Background
The SEAD Project (Southeast Asian Diaspora) is a community organization that grows social empowerment ecosystems through cultural organizing, critical language, and just storytelling.
SEAD’s 11 Principles That Guide Our Work

1. We grow an organizational culture that seeks to better understand and is reflective of our collective SEA cultures and identities.
2. We foster a healing-centered environment that is safe, courageous and welcoming.
3. We are a family that can and will hold each other with compassionate accountability.
4. We lead through a lens that is community-minded, decolonized, equitable, fair and fearless.
5. We are informed by the communities we serve and lead with.
6. We are authentic, ethical and transparent about our work and approach.
7. We will explore and experiment sustainable solutions to do and be better as community members.
8. We share, reclaim and reflect on diverse and complex SEA narratives.
9. We strengthen relationships within and outside of SEA communities.
10. We increase voice and visibility of SEA issues and stories for, by, and with SEA communities.
11. We collaborate and partner across communities, cultures and generations.