

Job Opening: Historic Restoration Craftsperson

Oak Brothers Historic Restoration is a small shop dedicated to high quality restoration of windows, doors, and interior architectural elements, primarily in the residential sector in the Chicagoland area. We will be hiring one craftsperson/artisan to assist in all aspects of the restoration process.

The ideal candidate will be someone intent on making a deep commitment to the field of restoration and preservation and the company's mission, gradually participating in cooperative ownership as his/her skills develop and both work ethics and compatibility/vision are proven.

Work Requirements

Because training is part of the job, persons need not have the specific restoration competencies and skills required. Persons **must**, however, have **transferable skills** in the following:

- Proficiency in English speaking and listening (understanding).
- Job-related or substantive hobbyist experience working with hand skills. Some jobs with transferable skills include: artist, chef, auto technician (mechanical or body), seamstress/tailor, trade worker, picture framer, art conservationist, bicycle repair technician; furniture repair worker, faux finisher/decorative arts painter, etc..
- Some woodworking experience and an eagerness to develop one's skills.
- Familiarity with hand tools and basic power tools (table saw, router, planer, chop saw).
- Ability to work for extended period of time standing, kneeling/crouching/stooping, using hands and reaching. Frequent lifting and moving required of items 25 to 50+ pounds. Less frequent lifting and moving of items up to 100 pounds.
- Patience in doing detail-oriented and repetitive tasks.
- Appreciation for vintage artifacts and/or history and restoration/repair (rather than replacement).
- Artistic sensibilities which enable one to integrate finishing and structural/functional aspects of the restoration process.
- A strong work ethic.
- A capacity to maintain productivity while working independently.
- A willingness to follow personal protection procedures and wear protective equipment when working with toxic chemicals and/or materials (such as lead paint).

Wages and Benefits

This is a full-time, hourly wage position at a rate commensurate with one's skill level.

Benefits beginning day one:

- Meaningful work with dignity for pleasant and appreciative clientele.
- While many of the trades will be increasingly focused on hiring "installers" you will acquire valuable, traditional hand skills and be contributing to creative projects.
- The satisfaction that comes from participating in projects from beginning to end, thus experiencing the (sometimes magical) transformation which one's work has enabled.

Benefits following six months:

- five paid personal days off.
- 1% matching contribution to 401k retirement fund.
- Partial financial assistance with company medical insurance options negotiable with wage package.
- Wage increase commensurate with skill development and acquisition of one's own tools that are contributing to increased productivity.
- Per the Chicago Paid Leave Ordinance, one hour of sick leave is accrued for every 40 hrs. worked (beginning day one).

Following one year:

- potential for partial ownership in the company (in possible move towards a cooperative organization).

Application Procedure

Submit a cover letter and resume. (If sent by e-mail, put "HR Craftsperson" in the subject line.) Only applicants who submit both a resume (with complete chronological work and educational history) **AND a cover letter** will be considered. Applicants do well to demonstrate, in their cover letter, how their skills are relevant to the work we do. (See website at: oakbrothers.net. Pay particular attention to the cutting edge of our work as described in "Restoration of Architectural Gems" under "Services.") No phone calls, please.