

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 market in the Chicagoland area. We will be hiring one or more craftsperson/artisan to assist in all aspects of the restoration process. The ideal candidate will be equally committed to both craftsmanship and aesthetic/artistic values—in short, an artisanal orientation.

Work Requirements

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

- Proficiency with transferable job-related or substantive hobbyist hand skills. Some jobs with transferable skills include: artist, chef, seamstress/tailor, carpenter, luthier, picture framer, art conservationist, bicycle repair technician; furniture repair worker, faux finisher/decorative arts painter, etc..
- Artistic sensibilities combined with craftsman-like skills which enable one to integrate finishing and structural/functional aspects of the restoration process.
- Some familiarity and experience working with hand tools and basic power tools (table saw, router, planer, chop saw, hand planes and chisels).
- 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 maintaining quality while engaged in detail-oriented and repetitive tasks.
- Appreciation for vintage artifacts, restoration/preservation principles, and/or history of architecture.
- 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).
- Independent means of transportation and the willingness to commute to both the shop in the South Shore neighborhood and onsite throughout the Chicagoland area.
- Proficiency in English speaking and listening (understanding).

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.

- Per the Chicago Paid Leave Ordinance, one hour of sick leave is accrued for every 40 hrs. worked.

Benefits following six months:

- Five paid personal days off.
- 1% matching contribution to 401k retirement fund.
- Wage increase commensurate with skill development that is contributing to increased productivity.

Following one year:

- Potential for limited partnership or cooperative organization of the business.

Application Procedure

Submit a **resume AND cover letter**. (If sent by e-mail, put "Hiring 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. Thoughtful and substantive cover letters catch our attention and can counteract deficiencies in the resume.