

CityHeART

Organization Website: www.ourcityheart.org

Organization Description/ Mission: *wholeheartedly loving our city and telling its stories*

CityHeART is a volunteer and peer-run organization that serves Veterans, seniors, and families navigating mental health and/or housing challenges in Long Beach. Our mission is brought to life by focusing on supporting case managers working with these populations, and we do this by providing supplemental case management and care coordination as part of a care team with several Long Beach housing and mental health agencies. Our volunteers work directly with case management staff AND directly with clients taking on the role of care coordinator that is designed to extend the client's network of support, much like a friend or family member might support their loved one during a challenging period. These services are provided via our Resource Hub on the west side of Long Beach AND remotely through our mobile app, the CityHeARTLove App, which puts the CityHeART Resource Hub in the hands of any individual, case manager or family member or community member, seeking resources on behalf of their client or loved one. Finally, our storytelling work is intended to raise awareness of key community issues, as well as to provide a therapeutic, empowering, and healing process and platform for individuals and organizations to share lived experiences.

Position: Art from Ashes: Creative Intern

Intern Roles/Responsibilities:

Interns in this position have the opportunity to work in a wide variety of creative capacities. CityHeART's Art from Ashes program publishes an annual printed magazine, a monthly street paper (an art paper with additional details below), a radio station, as well as multimedia storytelling work weekly online and through CityHeART's mobile app, the CityHeARTLove App. Each platform is designed to provide meaningful, community-based storytelling that raises awareness of key issues in the community AND provides education to case managers as well as community members about the many local resources available in Long Beach to serve those issues. In this way, the CityHeART publications are NOT a news entity, but rather they work together to increase community awareness and overall community health.

Interns in this role are offered the option to choose specifically one platform to devote their hours to, in which case they will gradually take on responsibility for not only the research and content development but also the platform publication and promotion elements as well. On this path, interns will complete their internship with a deep understanding of all production elements of the publication platform they worked on as well as the community issue area on which they focused their work.

Interns in this position also have the opportunity to opt to spend equal time with each of the platforms (magazine, street paper, radio station, and digital content), in which case they will create a rich portfolio of work focused on the community issue area of their choice and in a variety of media (live audio, podcast, video, written, designed, photography, etc.).

Essential Functions (applies to all interns, regardless of choice of focus)

1. Complete 4-week Art from Ashes Creators Training

- This training is provided during the intern’s first month at CityHeART and serves as an introduction to each platform
 - Upon completion of Creators Training, reflect and determine which path is more of interest (focus on one creative platform for the internship or spend equal time with each)
2. Self select a creative “beat” (an issue area to focus on) that may include any of the following populations and/or issue areas: (not an exhaustive list, interns may discuss other ideas with supervisor for approval)
 - mental health
 - Veterans
 - LGBTQIA+
 - BIPOC
 - homelessness
 - environmental health
 - food security
 - housing and/or housing security
 - seniors
 - at-risk youth
 - families
 - women
 3. Create and submit a single story weekly for review, revision, and publication
 - includes researching the topic, identifying a clear story that provides education of a local resource, and developing the content (between 6-8 hours per week)
 4. Participate in weekly creative production meetings (virtual, one hour)
 5. Design and facilitate one community-based storytelling project (per semester) that focuses on the creative beat selected and provides a safe space for community members to share their own stories. This can be virtual, broadcast through the radio station, or as an in-person event.

This is a hybrid of in-person and remote internship, as there will be field work required as well as plenty of work that can be completed on an individual and unscheduled basis.

Qualifications and Requirements:

This position is designed for any student who has great capacity for empathy and patience, as well as a willingness to learn. In addition to those qualities, individuals with the following qualifications or competencies are highly encouraged to apply:

1. Academic background in an art, journalism, communications, video, or other media-related field
2. Academic background in the human services or related field, or relevant experience in any of the helping professions
3. Excellent communication skills, excellent writing skills
4. Competency with Google Drive
5. Military service or previous experience working with Veteran communities
6. Personal lived experience with housing and/or mental health challenges

7. Time management skills, and capacity to work in fast-paced environment
8. Self-starter, ability to work independently AND as part of a team

All production equipment, if required, will be available to borrow from CityHeART, students do not need to have their own cameras or recording devices. Mobile smartphones are sufficient in most cases, and higher quality equipment is available at CityHeART.

Organization Hours of Operation/ Required Student Availability:

CityHeART is open to interns in this position to be at our Resource Hub Monday-Friday between the hours of 9am-3pm. Interns in this position must be available at minimum between 10am-2pm one day per week to be physically at the Resource Hub creating and publishing their own content as well as working with the team to manage the various platforms. Hours beyond the one 4-hour block of scheduled time at the Resource Hub are intended to be spent in the field in the Long Beach community, creating content, conducting research, and attending local events related to the creative beat.

Opportunities for additional hours for research, resource-related content development, and contributing to our Long Beach resource database are always offered to students in this position as well as regularly as they would like in addition to being physically present at the Hub between 10am-2pm at least one day per week, creating their own storytelling work, and completing their community-base storytelling project.

CityHeART is *extremely* flexible and beyond understanding of the many challenges students face, so minor adjustments to schedules and flexing hours from week to week is generally perfectly acceptable.