



RED EAGLE SOARING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JOB POSTING

Organizational History:

Red Eagle Soaring (RES) is a Seattle-based 501(c)(3) serving Native American and Alaska Native youth ages 10-30 with free programming integrating contemporary theatre and traditional Native performing arts. RES engages Native youth and their families in critical discussions about the issues affecting their lives and provides a cultural peer group in which to build confidence, identity, and community.

Since 1991, Red Eagle Soaring has mentored hundreds of Native youth, staged over 170 productions, and supported youth access to the healing power of holistic Native cultural traditions which promote social, physical, intellectual, and spiritual engagement. In bringing together Native youth to learn about the technical aspects and process of theatre, they also build a community of people interested in learning about, sharing, promoting, and supporting Native arts and cultural life ways.

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow - (YTT) - Urban Native Performing Artists is an active group of Red Eagle Soaring (RES) Alumni that continue to mentor the youth of our program within RES activities. YTT members also create and perform their own pieces of art that take place in Seattle and abroad. The group stays active by pursuing their own artistic and professional development in the performing arts as Actors, Writers, Directors, Producers, Musicians, Videographers and more. RES provides support and cultivates opportunities for them as they become the next generation of Native Teaching Artists and Arts-based industry professionals.

Red Eagle Soaring is empowering Native youth to express themselves, take creative action on the issues that affect their lives, and sustain their cultural heritage.

RES programming supports the 'Since Time Immemorial' Washington state tribal history and sovereignty curriculum developed by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. We are committed to teaching our youth Native tradition, history, and culture that reflects the diversity of tribal origins in Seattle's urban multicultural setting.

Mission:

Red Eagle Soaring's mission is to empower American Indian and Alaskan Native youth to express themselves with confidence and clarity through traditional and contemporary performing arts.

Vision:

Red Eagle Soaring aspires to have significant impact throughout Northwest communities upon generations of American Indian and Alaskan Native youth, with excellent performances that showcase their rich cultural heritage.

Overview of Position: The Artistic Director is responsible for overseeing the artistic and programming focus of the organization. Other key duties include mentorship, educational development, fundraising, and community outreach. The position works in conjunction with the Executive Director and reports directly to the Board of Directors. This position will set the ground-work for a future permanent position which can elevate the artistic reputation of Red Eagle Soaring. For this inaugural period, we are seeking a candidate who can begin laying this foundation in the virtual space required during this pandemic. The following is a list of general responsibilities which may be included in the contracted scope of work.

General Responsibilities:

- **Artistic Leadership**

- Planning and producing artistic programming consistent with Red Eagle Soaring's (RES) mission, institutional priorities and resources.
- Engaging in other activities on behalf of RES, or performing such other duties, as may be mutually determined by AD and the Board of Directors to be in the best interests of RES.
- Develop and document tools and curriculum from a Native lens, designed for Native actors and theatre makers.
- Create a pipeline of work in development to activate the theatrical process at every level and bring projects and scripts that have been extensively workshopped and developed to the stage.
- Directing and producing one or more plays each season, with the understanding that artistic responsibilities are a material part of the duties of the Artistic Director.
- Develop and implement a short performance piece that can be taught to all RES youth, as a "go to" performance for last minute requests.
- Maintain and foster strong relationships with local and national leaders in the Native Arts Community who can supplement curriculum and productions with traditional and contemporary Native music, art, design and performance content.
- Work with and cultivate local, national and YTT playwrights to bring to fruition traditional and contemporary Native stories in a theatrical context.
- Supervising day-to-day the artistic and production staff, including engaging and dismissing staff, setting goals and objectives, and conducting performance evaluations and salary reviews, all within the budget and policies adopted by the Board of Directors.
- Developing and sustaining RES's important role as a collaborator among Seattle's arts organizations.
- Cultivating relationships with key donors, media, audiences and leaders in the Seattle and national theater and Native communities. This responsibility is shared with RES's Executive Director and other members of the senior staff and the Board of Directors.
- Advocate for, and implement, traditional forms of storytelling, language, music, design and dance into RES and YTT's productions.

- **Community and Youth Engagement**

- Develop ongoing relationships with theater artists and introducing and advocating for Red Eagle Soaring as part of the professional theatre ethos
- Develop relationships with existing families and youth and welcome new families into the creative and supportive Native environment RES seeks to create
- Serving as a public spokesperson for RES, publicly articulating the artistic vision behind its programs, and actively participating in RES's fundraising and development efforts.

- Engaging in other activities on behalf of RES, or performing such other duties, as may be mutually determined by AD and the Board of Directors to be in the best interests of RES.
- **Operations**
 - Promoting and maintaining a positive environment and experience for all participants and employees.
 - Collaborating with the Board of Directors and RES staff in strategic planning.
 - Developing and maintaining strong relationships with RES's Board of Directors, including the applicable committees established by the Board, and regularly attending Board of Directors and applicable committee meetings.
 - Serving and promoting RES's core values and mission, including its essential commitments to equity in the workplace and on its stage.
 - Create partnerships in collaboration with the Executive Director with local and national tribal communities to bring theatrical works to them and engage their youth in curriculum and workshops specifically designed for their needs.
 - Oversee the production and project management of performances from the initial planning stages through the performance dates.
- **Desired qualifications:**
 - Has an understanding and commitment to Native people and Native life, in all its complexities, and fosters a working relationship with local and national tribal organizations.
 - Encourages collaboration between mentors and students through proper resource delegation and transparency of operational processes
 - Represents the organization to the public in a professional and responsible manner.
 - Experience working with Native youth
 - Experience with creative drama or youth theatre
 - Experience working within artistic leadership in a theatrical structure
 - Individuals with American or Alaskan Native heritage are encouraged to apply

Compensation and Classification:

- Employee: Full Time/Exempt, \$5,000/mo for an initial 9 month contract
- Must have the ability to work flexible hours including occasional evenings and weekends, and for extended hours during busy production or programming schedules
- This position is remote however hours of operation are set to Pacific Standard Time

To apply, please send your cover letter, resume, and three references to Hannah Victoria Franklin Pierce, Meghan Jernigan, and Ariel Bradler, chairs of the Artistic Director Search Committee, at ad@redeaglesoaring.org. In your cover letter please explain what draws you to Red Eagle Soaring and how your experience makes you a successful candidate for this inaugural position. Applications received by November 6, 2020 will be given priority consideration.

Red Eagle Soaring is an equal opportunity employer, and individuals of all cultural backgrounds and abilities are welcome and encouraged to apply for all positions.