



WORMFARM INSTITUTE

JOB DESCRIPTION 2023 COMMUNITY PROGRAM ORGANIZER

[Wormfarm Institute](#) seeks a community program organizer with strong regional connections to support a discovery process for the future of Witwen Park, a former church camp and historic gathering place along a meandering creek in the heart of Sauk County. From April-December, the organizer will work closely with Wormfarm leadership to coordinate a series of listening sessions with regional stakeholders at Witwen Park, and support “test plot” events that share meeting outcomes with the broader public. This effort is part of a two-year discovery process that builds on a completed Historic Structure Report (HSR) of the park’s historic buildings including a unique tabernacle built in 1918, and in-progress conservation research that considers the restoration potential of the wetland surrounding the site.

Through successful private and public gatherings this year, we will explore the ways [“This Place Matters”](#) through the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s campaign, used “to promote public awareness of the importance of maintaining, preserving, and recognizing the historic and cultural significance of locations and properties across the country.” By the end of 2023, we will have results of these studies, a fact-determined direction forward, and a diverse group of stakeholders ready to collaborate on next steps. The organizer will be the primary point of contact for project participants and be responsible for moving the group’s work forward. Primary areas of focus are:

- Community & Stakeholder Listening Sessions
- Program Support
- Reporting & Research

This is a limited-term independent contract for an average 10-15 hours per week beginning this spring through the end of 2023, with peak hours in the summer and fall. Hourly rate will be \$20-25. Schedule can be flexible but predictable and work will be a mix of in-person and remote. A reliable car is required.

Experience with Google Drive and Zoom is highly preferred. Must have strong organizational skills, be comfortable communicating by email, text and phone call, and have strong Sauk County connections. Bachelor’s degree and/or three years’ experience in a related field is required e.g. the arts, agriculture, ecology, history, rural economy, community organization.

This position has the potential to grow into year-round, part-time employment supporting other mission-aligned programs in 2024.

Responsibilities include:

COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER LISTENING SESSIONS

- Invite regional stakeholders to participate in a series of 4-8 meetings and serve as the main point of contact throughout the discovery process
- Organize meeting logistics including schedule, facilitator, materials, and hospitality
- Connect with a growing constellation of adjacent organizations in the region that are also concerned with the land, the future of farming, and what tomorrow's thriving rural communities might look like

PROGRAM SUPPORT

- Help execute 3-5 “test plot” programs that invite audiences to discover Witwen Park which could include:
 - History and land conservation panels and tours
 - Publication of a zine that explores Witwen Park’s history and imagines the future of rural prosperity
 - Musical performances in the tabernacle
 - A fall event where a public display of Witwen’s potential future can be shared, bringing together artists, food entrepreneurs, local businesses and environmental organizations to “celebrate live culture in all its forms”
- Contribute creative ideas for ways to share key learnings from the listening sessions and gather broader community feedback at events
- Limited marketing support could include social media and helping to promote public events

REPORTING & RESEARCH

- Take thorough meeting notes and work with facilitator to report information back to stakeholders including action items and progress reports
- Work with conservation stakeholders to support research of wetland restoration issues
- Work with Wormfarm staff on a final project report.

To apply, send a resume and cover email to Donna Neuwirth, Executive Director: donna@wormfarminstitute.org.

About Wormfarm Institute

Wormfarm is a non-profit organization dedicated to building a sustainable future for agriculture and the arts by fostering vital links between people and the land. Based in Wisconsin, the organization has been working for more than 20 years to create new economic opportunities in the region and support a flourishing cultural ecology by bringing rural and urban communities together around farming, land conservation, and the arts. Wormfarm's initiatives include an [artist residency program](#), the management of Roadside Culture Stands across the state, and more. As part of the annual [Fermentation Fest](#), the organization launched the biennial Farm/Art DTour in 2011 as a way to make the connections between the land and art more legible and to stimulate the local economy. Farm/Art DTour is a free, self-guided drive through Wisconsin's working farmland that features large-scale public artworks, local food markets, roadside poetry,

and educational Field Notes. Since 2011, the event's attendance has grown from 3,000 to over 22,000 people, helping to unlock opportunities for investment in local cultural assets and resources that were previously undervalued.