

Off/Page Project Program Manager

A joint position between Youth Speaks and The Center for Investigative Reporting

Project description and mission:

The Off/Page Project combines the analytical lens of The Center for Investigative Reporting with the groundbreaking storytelling of the literary nonprofit Youth Speaks. Living at the intersection of youth voice and civic engagement, the Off/Page Project provides a multimedia platform for young people to investigate issues and stories that would otherwise be silenced.

Since 2012, Off/Page Project Director José Vadi has managed the project, producing a 30-minute original documentary, “Broken City Poets;” 20 town halls at [Brave New Voices](#), the global youth poetry event produced annually by Youth Speaks; five online videos; three short films; and a one-act play. The incoming Off/Page Project program manager will continue this momentum by directing the Off/Page Project into 2015.

Job description:

Under the supervision of José Vadi of Youth Speaks and Cole Goins of CIR, the Off/Page Project program manager will act as the liaison between the two organizations to produce a new multimedia series of reports that use the art of spoken word to illustrate stories affecting the lives of young people nationwide. Combining documentary shorts, oral/aural narratives and live performance, the program manager will curate, manage and produce a hybrid multimedia campaign that holds the creative force of spoken word poetry accountable to the ethics and truth of investigative journalism.

Job duties:

- Represent Off/Page as the lead contact, project coordinator and director of all collaborative initiatives between CIR and Youth Speaks.
- Communicate regularly with local Youth Speaks participants and Brave New Voices project coordinators to stay abreast of issues affecting young people in the network and solicit responses and insights based on CIR’s reporting. Look for alignment between these issues and CIR reporting and vice versa.
- Manage promotional and engagement strategies for all properties related to Off/Page, including the Off/Page website, social media channels and live events.
- Recruit poets from Youth Speaks’ local network and Brave New Voices’ national network to participate in Off/Page initiatives and collect stories and experiences from youth that could inform and contribute to CIR’s reporting.
- Find creative ways to engage youth on emerging discussions through the lens of journalism and art.
- Work directly with local and national Brave New Voices affiliates to build opportunities for collaboration with local media.
- Track and detail the accomplishments and impact of Off/Page activity for both Youth Speaks and CIR to advise both organizations on grant planning/writing, provide updates on project deliverables and support grant reporting requirements.

Key deliverables:

- Produce two to three original short films annually for Off/Page with either CIR multimedia staff or freelance filmmakers.
- Contribute on a monthly/regular basis to “Reveal,” CIR’s nationally syndicated radio show launching in January 2015, in addition to completing individual projects for “Reveal” and CIR.
- Support existing collaborations with members of the Brave New Voices network to create original content around Off/Page campaigns, including planned projects in Des Moines, Iowa; Detroit; Alaska; and New York City.
- Produce and document the town halls of the annual Brave New Voices festival, which facilitate conversations on key issues young people face across the country.

Ideal candidates should have:

- Experience working with youth, preferably in an art education-related capacity.
- Strong familiarity with writing and teaching poetry.
- Ideas to further explore how the combination of art and journalism can engage and empower youth.
- A collaborative attitude and excellent communication skills.

This is a full-time position with benefits based in the San Francisco Bay Area (San Francisco and Emeryville).

To apply:

Please submit a résumé and cover letter detailing why this position applies to your background, interests, goals and artistic and journalistic practices. Send your application to offpageproject@cironline.org and include “Off/Page Project Program Manager” in the subject line. The deadline to apply is Dec. 1, 2014.

About the organizations:

The Center for Investigative Reporting is the nation’s first independent, nonprofit investigative reporting organization. Devoted to holding powerful interests accountable to the public trust, CIR creatively employs cutting-edge technology and innovative storytelling to reveal injustice, spark change at all levels of society and inform public dialogue on critical issues. CIR produces high-impact reporting across print, video, TV, radio and online platforms. It is the recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions, winner of a 2013 Emmy Award and a 2013 George Foster Peabody Award, and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2012 (for local reporting) and 2013 (for public service). Learn more at cironline.org.

Youth Speaks creates safe spaces to empower the next generation of leaders, self-defined artists and visionary activists through written and oral literacies. Youth Speaks challenges youth to find, develop, publicly present and apply their voices as

creators of social change. Founded in 1996 in San Francisco, Youth Speaks is the leading nonprofit presenter of spoken word performance, education and youth development programs in the country. A presenter of local and national youth poetry slams, festivals, reading series and more, Youth Speaks also offers a comprehensive slate of literary-arts education programs during the school day, after-school hours, weekends and evenings. The nonprofit provides numerous opportunities for youth to be published and heard. Youth Speaks works with 45,000 teens per year in the San Francisco Bay Area alone and has helped create partner programs in 47 cities across the United States. Youth Speaks hopes to shift the perceptions of youth by combating illiteracy, alienation and silence, creating a global movement of brave new voices bringing the noise from the margins to the core. Learn more at youthspeaks.org.