

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

FSTA Summer Lead Teaching Artist - Next Steps for Neurodivergent Students



FIRST STAGE is committed to dismantling structures that may prevent ALL people from applying for employment with us. FIRST STAGE celebrates the richness of our world by cultivating Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity as they inspire the creativity that nurtures great art, artists and audiences.

FIRST STAGE is an equal opportunity employer and as such, we consider individuals for employment according to their abilities and performance. Employment decisions are made without regard to race, age, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, physical or mental disability, marital or veteran status, or any other classification protected by law.

Position: Lead Teaching Artist – Next Steps for Neurodivergent Students (3rd-12th grade)

Status: Non-exempt, Part Time Seasonal

Reports to: Academy Manager; Academy Director

Dates: Six, 1-hour sessions, on Saturdays (Fall, Winter, Spring)

Compensation: \$25/hour

Overview: First Stage Theater Academy seeks a Summer Academy Lead Teaching Artist for a 4 to 8 week contract. As a Lead Teaching Artist you must believe in the mission of First Stage, to transform lives through theater, and work to create a safe, welcoming, inspiring, and motivating environment for students, teachers, and parents. We are seeking a Lead Teaching Artist with expertise in theater and working with students with diverse needs.

Next Steps serves young people through our philosophy of teaching life skills through stage skills. We strive to help each student take their next steps as an artist and a person. We serve both verbal and non-verbal students, students with classic autism, PDD-NOS, and other sensory processing disorders. The curriculum explores acting, singing, dancing, and improvisation, through which students improve social understanding, fine and gross motor skills, empathy, conversation skills, public speaking and confidence.

We are seeking teaching artists for our main campus, the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (Downtown Milwaukee).

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES - THEATER ACADEMY

- Develop, document, and submit contextually appropriate lesson plans based on Academy guideposts.
- Work with the Next Steps Manager and other Teaching Artists on a continual basis to develop and facilitate theater curriculum and individualized support needs to Next Steps students.
- Maintain a safe learning environment through supporting student well-being, confidence, and personal growth.
- Manage classroom behavior, procedures, and assessments.
- Attend all required meetings and training sessions.
- Facilitate presentations as needed.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Be a team player, lead by example, exhibit a strong work ethic and be committed to the First Stage philosophy of teaching *life skills through stage skills* and *transforming lives through theater*.
- Present excellent communication skills, along with the ability to adjust communications styles to varied youth, parent and professional populations.

- Prior teaching and experience creating curriculum, managing a classroom, and writing lesson plans is required.
- Prior experience working with neurodivergent students or students with disabilities is required.
- Ability to travel to our main campus, Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (325 W Walnut St, Milwaukee, 53212) and/or other satellite locations.
- A Bachelor's degree in Special Education or Theatre Arts is preferred.

REQUIREMENTS

- Engage with and support the efforts of First Stage and the Belonging-Equity-Access-Diversity (BEAD) Committee to create a safe, equitable, and inclusive work environment.
- An offer of employment is contingent on a successful background check.

TO APPLY

Please send cover letter and resume with your experience, and a sample lesson plan via email to K-4 and Next Steps Manager, Hannah Esch: hesch@firststage.org.

ABOUT FIRST STAGE

First Stage is one of the nation's leading theaters for young people and families. First Stage touches hearts, engages minds and transforms lives by creating extraordinary theater experiences through professional theater productions that inspire, enlighten and entertain, serving audiences of over 120,000 among more than 300 performances annually. Its Theater Academy, the nation's largest high-impact theater training program for young people, fosters life skills through stage skills and serves nearly 2,000 students each year. As Wisconsin's leader in arts-integrated education in schools, First Stage's dynamic Theater in Education programs promote literacy, character building and experiential learning throughout the curriculum, serving 20,000 students each year. For more information about First Stage visit www.firststage.org.