



## Community Building Placekeeping - AmeriCorps Summer VISTA

The Neighborhood Developers, Inc.

Reports to: Community Building Director

**The Neighborhood Developers, Inc. (TND)** (<http://theneighborhooddevelopers.org/>) creates vibrant neighborhoods where people from all walks of life can thrive. Focused on three cities that abut Boston to the north (Chelsea, Revere, and Everett), TND delivers the following integrated programs to build equity and opportunity for both people and place: 1) **Real estate development** to expand affordable housing inventory; 2) **Resident Services** so that tenants in TND's properties remain stably housed and use the platform of an affordable home to accrue social, health, educational, and economic benefits; 3) **Community building** to elevate the voices of residents who have traditionally held less power, enabling them to shape the future of our communities and their own lives; and 4) **Financial capabilities** to increase the prosperity of community members. TND believes in both people- and place-based solutions to create great and thriving neighborhoods. Without an engaged citizenry, entrenched social and economic issues that impact community members in our target neighborhoods will remain.

In the summer of 2021, TND will work with corporate partner Republic Services and the City of Revere to revitalize Revere's Sandler Square with improvements such as the installation of new benches, lighting, landscaping and signage, as well as crosswalk and sidewalk art. The revitalization will create a welcoming space for locally driven, ongoing placemaking activities such as temporary art installations, performances, a series of planned night markets (food trucks, arts, music and socializing), and the Shirley Ave Cultural Festival. In addition to dealing with the fallout from the pandemic, many of our residents are struggling with dramatic change in their gentrifying cities and the threat of displacement. Against this backdrop, place-keeping efforts that improve conditions and celebrate the culture of neighborhoods are particularly beneficial.

### Job Description

The Placekeeping Summer VISTA will assist Community Building staff with Sandler Square revitalization efforts. The VISTA will support planning and implementation of the events listed above and will help recruit, train and coordinate volunteer activities before, during and after the events. In order to assess the impact of these initiatives, the VISTA will conduct post-event surveys to gauge resident satisfaction regarding the programming. In addition, this VISTA will support TND's Community Research Summer VISTA in implementing NeighborWorks America's Resident Satisfaction Survey in Chelsea, MA. More than fifteen months into the pandemic, these surveys will assess resident opinions on household and community needs, neighborhood conditions, and the impact of TND's work in Revere and Chelsea.

The following objectives are the focus of the VISTA's work:

1. Assist with planning and implementing community events in Sandler Square in Revere, Ma.
  - Work with Communications Staff on producing flyers and implementing new social media strategies;
  - Help recruit, train and coordinate the activities of volunteers and vendors;
  - Offer support in planning meetings, and with logistical management;
  - Maintain accurate records, complete data entry, and produce timely reports;



2. Support the implementation of NeighborWorks America's Resident Satisfaction Survey in Chelsea, MA.
  - Assist with promotion and volunteer recruitment
  - Assist with day-of event implementation

To accomplish these objectives, typical activities in a day may include: creating a project plan, creating instructional materials, soliciting feedback/input from colleagues on a draft plan or materials, training colleagues or volunteers on a new process, running reports, compiling spreadsheets, importing/exporting data, researching best practices, etc.

Please note this is a VISTA member position, not a staff position. The VISTA member will be supervised by the Revere Community Building Manager and will work closely with the other Community Building and Resource Development staff. The VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program provides full-time volunteers to nonprofit, faith-based and other community organizations to create and expand programs that bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty. In addition to a living allowance, the VISTA program offers an education award or cash stipend, health insurance, and week-long training in a U.S. city. For more information about AmeriCorps VISTA, see <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps/ameriCorpsvista>

## Qualifications

### Required:

- College degree or relevant work history
- At least 18 years of age
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Responsible, self-motivated, and able to carry out and prioritize multiple ongoing projects
- Thrives in a fast-paced work environment
- Ability to work occasional evenings or weekends (e.g. for focus groups), not to exceed 40 hours/week
- Strong work ethic, a good sense of humor, and a commitment to social justice

### Desired:

- Experience working in a diverse multi-cultural community
- Relevant experience in community building and/or placekeeping
- Bi-lingual English-Spanish, English-Khmer, English-Arabic or English- Portuguese

## To Apply

TND is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer.

Please email a resume and cover letter to [sfosbury@tndinc.org](mailto:sfosbury@tndinc.org). Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled at the beginning of June 2021.

