

## **Mason Street City Farm Apprenticeship Application**

**Position:** Urban Farm Apprentice

**Organization:** Mason Street City Farm

**Location:** Victoria BC

**Application Deadline:** January 20th 2015

**Working Interviews\*:** February 5 & 6 2015

\*Working interviews are a 1 hr individual volunteer work session with Jesse and Angela onsite, followed by a short interview.

### **About the Farm:**

The Mason Street City Farm is a quarter acre market farm nestled into the heart of North Park neighbourhood in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia. Located just three blocks from City Hall, a stone's throw from the local fast food joint and tucked in between condos, grocery stores, and the local elementary school is a highly productive and accessible urban farm. It is a green space in the city where a diversity of people with a diversity of skills come together in the ancient and cardinal act of growing food. This quarter acre of land nestled in the heart of downtown Victoria has been in cultivation for over 20 years and currently provides food to local restaurants and members of the community.

At the Mason Street City Farm we are dedicated to educating people about growing food in the Pacific Northwest and cultivating a just community food system through empowering local residents to actively participate in food security on Vancouver Island. The Mason Street City Farm offers a sustainable model of commercial food production in the city with the intention to build and strengthen community.

### **About the Apprenticeship:**

**\*\*\*This apprenticeship is well suited for individuals with a strong work ethic who are seeking a career path in ecological food production. Many days of this apprenticeship will be fun and enjoyable. Many days will be challenging, wet and monotonous. You will be experiencing life as a production farmer. We will be serving coffee!**

The Mason Street City Farm is offering 3 full season paid apprenticeships for the 2015 growing season. Apprentices work 2 full days per week with a stipend of \$75 per day. This is equivalent to a \$650 monthly stipend. Apprentices are responsible for providing their own room and board in Victoria.

**When:** April 1 2015 - September 25 2015 (6 month apprenticeship)

**Where:** 1032 Mason St. The lions share of our work happens onsite but there will be field trips!

## **What will you learn?**

Urban Farm apprentices work in all areas of our community food business including farm planning, obtaining supplies, propagation, planting, harvesting, soil building, caring for chickens, greenhouse construction, aquaponics, volunteer management, food deliveries, marketing, community outreach, fundraising, administrative work and record-keeping.

You will learn about the latest techniques and technologies for optimizing commercial food production in smaller spaces. Our farming practices can be utilized in a garden as small as 600 sqr feet or a homestead over 1.5 acres and can provide a steady income for a hard working food grower.

Each apprentice will gain the experience of co-ordinating the farms primary systems though a revolving monthly schedule. These roles include:

- Harvest Co-ordinator
- Nursery Co-ordinator
- Fertility Co-ordinator
- Aquaponics Co-ordinator
- Livestock Co-ordinator
- Crop Rotation Co-ordinator

Apprentices will be included in our collective decision-making process.

**Ideally our applicants will possess some of the skills outlined below, although not all are required:**

- Experience and willingness to do hard manual labour and to lift at least 50 pounds
- Self motivated and passionate about growing food in the city
- Ability to stay on task while handling multiple distractions
- Capable of taking direction
- Capable of taking initiative and solving problems
- Comfortable working with a diverse group of people
- Outgoing and friendly with the public
- Comfortable directing volunteers
- Attention to detail (organized farm site, tool maintenance etc.)
- Organizational skills (record-keeping, planning, managing schedules, e-mail, etc)
- Basic construction skills preferred, not required.
- Basic computer skills preferred, not required (Word, Excel, e-mail, social media etc.)

**Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to schedule a working interview on February 5th or 6th.**

We want to meet and work with you on the farm to determine a mutual fit for the apprenticeship program.

# Application

Please keep your answers as brief as possible, *PLEASE*.

1. In 75 words or less, tell us a bit about yourself.
2. Why do you want to be an apprentice at the Mason Street City Farm?
3. What skills and knowledge do you hope to gain?
4. What special skills or qualities can you contribute to the Mason Street City Farm?
5. Please tell us about your farming/gardening experience, if any?
6. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
7. Tell us about your work ethic.

Please email this application to [masonstreetfarm@gmail.com](mailto:masonstreetfarm@gmail.com) with '2015 apprenticeship application' in the subject line.

**Please include a current resume**

## **Volunteer Internships** (also available)

We are offering 2 month volunteer internships throughout the 2015 growing season. The position requires a one day per week commitment to join the farm crew. Please email us at [masonstreetfarm@gmail.com](mailto:masonstreetfarm@gmail.com) if you're interested in applying.

### **Positions Available:**

- Winter/Spring (March/April)
- Spring (May/June)
- Summer (July/August)
- Fall (September/October)

Thank you!

Angela Moran & Jesse Brown  
Directors, Mason Street City Farm

