



# UBtheChange Community Activators Position Description

Timelines and details for this position, including the timing of the projects, are subject to change. If you have questions about what this might look like, including your individual circumstances for the 2022/2023 academic year, feel free to contact Sydney Kroes directly at [sydney.kroes@ubc.ca](mailto:sydney.kroes@ubc.ca).

## Role overview

The UBtheChange Community Activators develop social action projects in collaboration with community organizations across Metro Vancouver that respond to a community-identified need. Acting as peer mentors and leaders, Community Activators support UBC student volunteers to implement the projects in and with community stakeholders. Their work directly benefits local communities and facilitates meaningful learning experiences for their peers. Enabling students to apply their discipline learning, develop new skills, and learn from community expertise, Community Activators empower students to recognize their agency in collaboratively working towards and creating social change.

## Organizational Relationship

Each UBtheChange Community Activator will be directly supported by the Student Engagement Coordinator at the [Centre for Community Engaged Learning](#) and be part of the Centre's UBtheChange Activator Network.

## Primary Functions

### Engage in Personal and Professional Skill Development

The UBtheChange Community Activators develop competencies in the areas pertinent to role, including:

- Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)
- Community Partnership & Engagement
- Experiential Education
- Project Management
- Team Facilitation and Support

### Provide intentional and effective support to partnering community organizations

- Liaise with community partners and key stakeholders to action one short-term project (1-3 days or over the course of a month with milestone check-in meetings as needed) per term that address an identified community need or support request
- Set appropriate timelines and delegate roles within the planning team
- Identify the needed supply and student volunteer roles to carry out the project



**Provide intentional and effective support for UBC students to learn about and engage with community partners and the wider Vancouver community**

- Set clear expectations and role objectives for student volunteers
- Ensure regular engagement & communication with a team of studentvolunteers
- Facilitate volunteer orientations, team building activities, and critical reflection exercises. An important part of the Community Activator role is to help UBC students learn from their community project experience through critical reflection and peer mentorship activities.
- Provide on-site supervision, leadership, and mentorship to student volunteers on project days (typically 1-3 days per term)

**Role model outstanding student leadership on campus**

- Embrace the role as an ambassador for inclusive student leadership on campus and in the many communities we work with
- Contribute to an environment at UBC that is dedicated to equity and mutual respect.

**Time commitments**

**Trainings and Initial Engagements**

- **Peer Programs Welcome Lunch**, Wednesday April 12<sup>th</sup> 11:00am-1:00pm *optional*
- **Virtual Training:**
  - Complete Community Building Education online course (July-August).
  - Role trainings will be held on Zoom in mid-August or early September with dates and times confirmed based on the availability of the cohort. Scheduling will be made with international time zones in mind.
- **Community-based Training** *optional*
  - All Activators are eligible to join a 1-3 day, community-based training in collaboration with community organizations working on pressing community issues during the summer or early September. This provides incoming Activators with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience while developing a deeper relationship with the wider Vancouver community.

**Regular Meetings**

Student leaders must be available without classes or other activities for bi weekly meetings on Wednesdays from 5pm-6:30pm PST

- Term 1: first meeting September 6<sup>th</sup> , last meeting December 6<sup>th</sup>
- Term 2: first meeting January 10<sup>th</sup>, last meeting April 10<sup>th</sup>



### **Regular Commitment**

- 15 hours of community-based project planning over September-March in addition to our regular meetings. This includes attending planning meetings with your project team and a site visit to your elementary school or non-profit community organization.
- An individual check-in with a program advisor (based on your availability)

### **Desired skills and experience**

- Be a UBC student in good standing
- Demonstrated commitment to the program and ability to attend all events and meetings
- May be required to complete a Criminal Record check (if required by Community Partner Organization).
- Preference will be given to students who have had previous experience as a UBC Chaneg Activator, Reading Week Student Leader, or other campus-wide student leadership roles.

### **Strong applicants will also possess all or some of the following qualifications:**

- Previous or equivalent experience in community-based experiential learning (e.g. Map the System, Reading Week Projects, Community Action Days projects, Social Impact Lab, community service learning as part of a course, International Service Learning, or similar programs)
- The ability to work independently and collaboratively as a part of a diverse team
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Enthusiasm and experience with group or team leadership with university students
- Excellent organizational skills: ability to prioritize, multi-task, and meet deadlines
- High level of self-awareness and commitment to ongoing learning
- Ability to take initiative

### **Benefits of participating in this role**

#### **Develop a specific set of professional competencies**

- Enhance leadership skills in the areas of communication, team-building, personal and professional growth, diversity/awareness, and networking.
- Gain tangible skills in event planning, project management, professional communication, and public speaking
- Develop competencies in asset-based community development (ABCD), community partnership & engagement, and self-directed learning

#### **Receive sponsorship to professional development opportunities**

- UBC Student Leadership Conference (January 2022)
- Other local workshops or events that are relevant to the role



### **Increased opportunity for on-campus and community networking**

- Opportunities to connect and network with local community organizations and non-profit professionals
- Be a part of the broader Peer Programs Network, which engages both within and beyond the UBC campus community in support of and service to others.

### **Commitment to Equity and Inclusion**

- Equity and diversity are essential to the UBC community. Having a diverse community of leaders can help contribute to more effective community building and to the empowerment of voices that have been underrepresented or discouraged. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the B.C. Human Rights Code, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, age, and/or status as a First Nation, Metis, Inuit, or Indigenous person.
- We expect all applicants to be committed to equity and inclusion, and leaders will be provided with ongoing training related to these topics. We expect all applicants to show respect for all people and their differences, demonstrate fairness and equity, work to understand the perspectives of others, promote cooperation and collaboration, bring out the best in others, demonstrate empathy, and use respectful language.
- The Centre for Community Engaged Learning would like to recognize that being able to participate in student leadership opportunities is a privilege. The weekly commitment for Activators may not be feasible for some students who need accommodations based on chronic health conditions, disabilities, mental health, and/or other lived experiences. If you have specific accommodations with regards to your ability to participate and contribute to the program, please connect with the Coordinator listed below to discuss what accommodations can be made for your particular circumstances/situation.

**Contact information for questions:** Sydney Kroes at [Sydney.kroes@ubc.ca](mailto:Sydney.kroes@ubc.ca)