

Call for applications: Volunteer Docents

Vancouver, BC

HOLOCAUST-BASED ANTI-RACISM EDUCATION

Commemorating the past
& educating for the future

About Us

Founded by Holocaust survivors in 1994, the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre (VHEC) is Western Canada's leading Holocaust teaching museum, engaging more than 25,000 students and teachers annually. The VHEC's mission is to promote human rights, social justice and genocide awareness through education and remembrance of the Holocaust.

We produce acclaimed original exhibitions, onsite and online school programs, teaching materials and public events. The VHEC also maintains a museum collection and archives, Holocaust survivor testimony project, and a library and resource centre.

The VHEC has successfully adapted its programming to meet the needs of students, educators and the broader community throughout the pandemic, and continues to build on its onsite activities and online outreach. The VHEC's teaching philosophy emphasizes an interactive approach, encouraging exchanges between docents and students/visitors, through exhibition tours, as well as educational workshops in schools and virtual platforms.

For more about the VHEC visit www.vhec.org.

The Opportunity

The VHEC is seeking qualified and enthusiastic individuals to join our dedicated team of docents – volunteers who share a passion for human rights and social justice, through Holocaust-based anti-racism education. Volunteering as a docent is a wonderful opportunity to share your dedication to the pursuit of a more just world, supporting programs that aim to empower students and the general public to become upstanders against antisemitism and other forms of racism.

DOCENT ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead school and public tours of VHEC exhibitions and facilitate educational workshops
- Act as a facilitator to interpret VHEC exhibits to groups in engaging, relevant, and responsible manner
- Support Holocaust survivor outreach speakers, both in person and virtually
- Provide a welcoming environment that encourages students to learn, reflect and contribute their stories and ideas
- Foster a welcoming and inclusive environment for all visitors

SKILLS, EXPERIENCE, AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills in English
- Comfort in speaking in front of groups
- Interest in learning about and sharing of Holocaust and Second World War history
- Teaching experience, knowledge of history, and spoken French are assets
- Complete the docent training program (Nov 2022)

QUALITIES DESIRED

- Passion and commitment to social justice & human rights, respect for cultural diversity
- Motivation to empower individuals to make a difference
- Enthusiasm for continual learning and training
- Punctual and reliable

SCREENING MEASURES

- Interview
- Reference check
- Criminal record check
- 2-month probationary period

ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

- Complete mandatory training prior to volunteering, approx. 6 hrs/month (Nov 2022)
- Ongoing professional development and training
- Learn materials provided and understand teaching goals
- Shadow Education Director and/or experienced docents and practice tours before leading a group

TIME COMMITMENT

- Available mornings or afternoons at least one day a week, Monday to Friday (Sep-Jun)
- 3-6 hours per month

BENEFITS TO DOCENTS

- Ongoing support and learning opportunities
- Comprehensive training includes historical context of the Holocaust, best practices and inquiry-based learning, anti-racism and anti-bias education, trauma-informed teaching strategies, and current exhibition training
- Develop and fine-tune valuable skills in public speaking, presentation, and group facilitation
- Opportunity to network and meet like-minded people

SUPPORT, SUPERVISION, AND EVALUATION

- VHEC staff will schedule, supervise, and support docents
- Complete self-evaluation, and receive comments and feedback from teachers, students, and survivors

How to Apply

Apply at www.vhec.org/volunteer

Please submit applications by **October 31, 2022**.

It takes a community of dedicated and talented people to help fulfill the VHEC's mandate of Holocaust-based anti-racism education. We sincerely thank all applicants for their interest.