DIRECTOR OF LANDSCAPES

PURPOSE OF POSITION:
The Director of Landscapes is responsible for the care, preservation, restoration, and interpretation of the gardens, landscape features, and grounds of Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, ensuring that the property adheres to historical landscape standards, is esthetically pleasing, and provides an enjoyable and safe experience for visitors.

The Director of Landscapes will be responsible for promoting and building awareness of the significance of the Ford House Jens Jensen landscape by creating collaborative relationships with professional horticultural schools and organizations, and developing high quality interpretive programs highlighting the landscape (in conjunction with the Education & Visitor Experience Department).

RESPONSIBILITIES and ACCOUNTABILITIES:
• Researches, plans, designs, and directs all operational aspects of the estate's 85 acres of lawns, trees, plantings, gardens and roadways, ensuring high horticultural standards and historic authenticity in alignment with the designs and intent of Jens Jensen and the Fords.
• Develops and implements planting plans, cultural landscape reports, plant inventories, plant replacement program, landscape reference files and historic structures reports on landscape features.
• As a member of the Ford House management team, participates and assists in special programming, events and activities that involve the landscapes.
• Actively participates with the educational and interpretive staff and in the development and implementation of landscape and gardens interpretive programs for the benefit of visitors. This includes recommending program ideas, providing horticultural and historical expertise, conducting tours, etc.
• Determines the appropriate use of outside contractors, coordinates the competitive bidding process, and oversees contracted work to ensure quality and adherence to specifications.
• Develops and directs a volunteer corps for the department.
• Integrates and aligns the landscape department goals with the Ford House strategic plan and master site plan.
• Serves as a spokesperson for the Ford House Jens Jensen landscape, making presentation at conferences, schools and other outreach and awareness building opportunities.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:
• Bachelor’s degree in horticulture, floriculture, landscape preservation, environmental science or a related field; a master’s degree is preferred.
• A minimum of five to ten years of work experience supervising the horticultural operations of a public garden, historic site or institution similar to Ford House.
• Demonstrated knowledge of horticulture (flower production, weed science, entomology, plant propagation, arboriculture, irrigation systems, pests and their control, lawn maintenance, soils, and fertilizers), and of grounds maintenance procedures (scheduling, equipment, etc.).
• Excellent writing, speaking, organizational and computer skills.
• Demonstrated ability to successfully manage and direct a subordinate staff of 6 – 10 people and a corps of volunteers.
• Ability to lift 50 pounds on a regular basis, work outside for long periods of time in unfavorable conditions, work weekends and evenings.

THIS POSITION IS CHARGED WITH THE FOLLOWING NEW INITIATIVES. APPLICANTS MUST DEMONSTRATE EXPERIENCE IN THESE AREAS:
• Promoting and building awareness of the significance of the Ford House Jens Jensen landscape by creating collaborative relationships with professional horticultural schools and organizations.
• Developing high quality interpretive programs.
• Creating and implementing volunteer corp.

HOW TO APPLY
Submit cover letter and resume to jobsearch@fordhouse.org. Please include salary history and expectations, as well as any other materials that demonstrate your ability to successfully fill this role.