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<https://www.facebook.com/mayprojectgardens>
<http://www.youtube.com/mayprojectgardens>

Title: Delivery Lead – Community Gardener and Cook

Responsible to: Ian Solomon-Kawall (Director)

Job Status: Part Time (6 Months)

Hours: 6 hours per week (with possibility of increased hours, subject to funding)

Pay: £15 per hour

Application: Please send your CV and covering letter OR a short video (no longer than 5 mins) explaining why you would be suitable for the role to zara.themayproject@gmail.com by Monday, 28th March 2016. We encourage you to send us links to projects you've been involved with, Youtube videos, photos or other types of evidence you feel would support your application. You can also stop by the garden on one of our open days on any Friday or Sunday before the 28th March if you would like to learn more about the project before applying.

Interview date: Sunday 3rd April, 2016

We are seeking a highly dedicated person with experience working with local communities using food growing as a tool for personal transformation.

May Project Gardens is a grassroots, community-based organisation based in Morden. Our mission is to educate and empower communities by providing practical, affordable solutions for sustainable living in urban environments through food growing, creative expression and alternative economic systems. Find out more [in this video](#).

In partnership with Pollards Hill Baptist Church and Commonsense Trust foodbanks we are delivering the new 'Grow, Cook, Eat' programme over a 6 month period. The programme will focus on engaging families and community members experiencing food poverty, with the aim of changing attitudes towards health and wellbeing. This will include participants learning food growing techniques, cooking healthy meals using food bank ingredients and fresh produce. The programme will also encourage participants to socialise, engage with the community, pastoral support and creative expression.

OUR HISTORY, ETHOS AND VALUES:

May Project Gardens was co-founded by Ian Solomon-Kawall in 2006, who experienced economic hardship and recognised the benefits of empowerment through financial autonomy, control of resources and ownership of one's environment. Until 2015, the project has functioned on a fully voluntary basis, with no formal funding. In the past year, May Project Gardens has received increased recognition for its innovative and alternative solutions to social problems. As a result, despite recent formalisation, we maintain a very independent, grassroots ethos and values. This informs the way we work with clients as well as how we interact as a team.

- **People-centric:** MPG believes real transformation starts with the self. We invest in the personal growth of our people (clients, volunteers and staff) to develop our social mission.
- **Collaborative:** The key to collaboration is an open mind and a common goal. We work to cooperatively contribute ideas and energy, and demonstrate a strong commitment to team working.
- **Biodiverse:** We do not only support cultural diversity. We believe it is crucial to have a diversity of experience, personalities, resources, and views for a truly successful and sustainable organisation. We embrace people and voices that have been marginalised and underrepresented in society.
- **Resource-led:** We recognise the importance of outcomes to achieve short term goals. However, we believe a truly sustainable mission must be resource-led.
- **Alternative:** Underpinning our mission is the much broader aim of creating an alternative system and lifestyle based on principles of nature, community, diversity and freedom of expression.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The Delivery Lead will be responsible for all aspects of delivery of the innovative 6-month 'Grow, Cook, Eat' programme. The programme engages Merton community members, especially those experiencing food poverty, to change attitudes towards their health and wellbeing. The role will include maintaining the green spaces, teaching food growing techniques and presenting nutritious recipes using basic ingredients and food grown. This role is crucial to the effective delivery of the programme, and will pioneer May Project Gardens work in the local community.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Maintain the gardens and develop vegetable beds using natural techniques such as permaculture and / or organic gardening to include composting, succession, crop rotation, soil, weeds and pests.

- Present simple food growing techniques to vulnerable members of the community.
- Support these members of the community to grow their own food, both at the allotment and at home through home growing kits.
- Create simple food recipes for up to 15 people using basic ingredients, introducing food from the vegetable plot when available.
- Lead regular cooking sessions with participants, or prepare food for the weekly community meal.
- Document work completed on site via log or photos.
- Work alongside other members of the project and volunteers to ensure a collaborative working culture.
- Take responsibility and use own initiative to resolve any problems as they may occur.
- Ensure a good level of communication and understanding of the projects culture and ethos.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- We prefer candidates to have at least 3 years experience working with permaculture or community garden projects, and with vulnerable people. However, we are open to considering exceptional candidates who have less experience.
- Experience working with, and coordinating, volunteers in a garden/food growing context.
- Hold health and safety food certificate.
- Driving license desirable.
- Current Enhanced DBS certificate. Please let us know at application stage if you do not currently hold a valid certificate, and we arrange for a form to be completed at the interview.
- Office experience working in a small to medium enterprise.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Enjoy working with a vulnerable and diverse group of people.
- Enthusiasm for sustainable living in urban environments.
- Passionate about supporting and promoting the aims and objectives of the May Project Gardens.
- Flexibility and commitment to working within a small, collaborative team.