



## Embrace Arts Foundation Volunteer Information Package (2018/2019)

### Program Overview

Embrace Arts Foundation is an organization devoted to creating meaningful artistic opportunities for individuals of all abilities. In partnership with many different organizations in the community, we offer classes, camps, school programs, and community events. We also have a professional mixed ability company operating under our organization that creates new dance and theatre works.

### Key Program Principles

- We strive to treat everyone with the highest level of dignity and respect
- We are not a therapy based organization (though we believe engagement in the arts can have inherent therapeutic benefit for anyone involved)
- All of our programs use the “challenge by choice” philosophy. This means that at no point will anyone be forced to “actively participate”. We encourage our participants to engage with us – but for many of our participants what engagement looks like varies greatly.
- We work with who is in the room in order to design programs that match the abilities and meet the desires of those who we work with.

### Core Program Areas For Volunteers

- Class Support
- Summer Day Camps
- Community Events
- Fundraising

Additionally, as an organization we run school programs, facilitate classes on other sites, work on mixed ability professional productions\* and host workshops. At this time, we do not have volunteer opportunities available in these contexts.

\*If you are an artist who is interested in being involved with professional productions, get in touch with Tiffany to further communicate about what we are currently working on and what technical & performance roles may be available in upcoming productions.



## Volunteer Roles

### *Class & Camp Assistants:*

- Participate alongside students in the class
- Provide verbal encouragement to students
- Provide mobility support for students
- Help set up and take down supplies in class

### *Community Event & Fundraising Support:*

This will look different on an project to project basis. Specific roles and task will be delegated in direct relationship to whatever the focus of the project or event is.

## Volunteer Expectations For Supporting During Programs and Events

- When supporting in a class or camp, always participate in the activity at hand (unless expressly directed not to for a specific activity by staff). Our participants thrive when positive examples are set.
- Volunteers will treat all participants with respect and dignity. We ask that you engage with everyone in an age appropriate manner – regardless of levels of physical and verbal communication a participant displays.
- On a similar note: please do not speak about our participants like they aren't in the room. If you wouldn't want the question/ statement made about yourself, chances are our participants feel the same way.
- If you have questions regarding why specific choices were made (in regards to sudden changes in routine, ignored behaviours, etc.), please wait until after the class to ask.
- Please receive consent before providing mobility support for a student. If you are uncertain how to receive this consent from a student who may communicate non-verbally, check in with the staff.
- Volunteers will not spend time alone in a one on one context with participants during our programs. If you are walking someone down to the washroom, please don't enter with them. If any support is needed with toileting, this should be done by a guardian, support worker, or staff member.
- Check in with staff to see what needs to be done and how you can best support. 😊



## Volunteer Interests Inventory

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in helping with:

Saturday Classes

Kids       Teens       Adults       Any Class

Summer Camps

Kids       Teens       Adults       Any Camp

Community Events

Fundraising



What previous arts or community based volunteer experience do you have?

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Why do you want to get involved with Embrace?

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Please provide the name and email address for one reference:

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Do you have any further questions do you have for us?

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We are grateful that you are taking the time to connect with us - We couldn't run optimally without community support. Please note that volunteer positions are distributed based on a wide variety of factors including the size of the class, the kind of support needed, the availability of volunteers, etc.

Thank you so much for interest in our programs!