



The Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS) is seeking an Advocacy Associate

The Advocacy Associate helps support MAS's advocacy, planning, and preservation initiatives under the direction of the Director of Advocacy. The Associate helps implement lobbying and community-building activities, supports MAS-led initiatives such as Fight for Light, Enduring Culture, and the Livable Neighborhoods Program, and advances MAS's positions through participation in externally led coalitions such as Thriving Communities Coalition, Housing Data Coalition, and other thematic collaborations. The Advocacy Associate will report to the Director of Advocacy and have strong working relationships with the Planning and Policy Team and the Menapace Fellow in Urban Land Use Law.

Overview: The Municipal Art Society of New York

The Municipal Art Society of New York lifts up the voices of the people in the debates that shape New York's built environment and leads the way toward a more livable city from sidewalk to skyline. MAS envisions a future in which all New Yorkers share in the richness of city life—where growth is balanced, character endures, and a resilient future is secured.

With more than 125 years of history, our advocacy efforts have led to the creation of the New York City Planning Commission, Public Design Commission, Landmarks Preservation Commission, and the Tribute in Light, as well as the preservation of Grand Central Terminal, the lights of Times Square, and the Garment District.

New York City is at a key moment of transition as the pandemic continues, leaving a city facing enormous health, social, and economic strains. The city also faces one of the most significant changes in governmental leadership in recent decades. MAS recognizes this moment as one of great importance as the city repositions itself for a more equitable future.

Core Responsibilities

- Prepare and present testimony before various bodies of New York City and State government including, Community Boards, City Council, City Planning Commission, and the Landmark Preservation Commission
- Assist with MAS' Preservation Committee, including coordinating meetings, presentation topics, communication, and follow-up items including formation of position letters, additional research, and engagement with relevant community stakeholders
- Advance MAS' new Enduring Culture Initiative through targeted research, stakeholder outreach and discussion, policy and platform development, storytelling, and lobbying efforts, MAS' Enduring Culture Initiative builds upon our legacy of historic preservation advocacy to recognize aspects of place beyond buildings and places as well as develop new tools to assist communities hold onto the qualities and culture that make them special.
- Convene and steward existing and new coalitions, including cultivating new community partners, identifying shared objectives and policy platforms, and facilitate meetings (scheduling, agenda creation, moderate discussion)
- Conduct qualitative research and analysis on policy approaches and community perspectives on a variety of planning and preservation topics. Special attention will be given to convening

conversations, holding space for difficult topics, and finding agreement between opposing points of view.

- Support the Livable Neighborhoods Program through cohort management, curriculum implementation, and alumni engagement
- Contribute to written, visual, audio, and other presentation materials for MAS campaigns, special projects, actions, and advocacy campaigns (including action alerts, web copy, and community resource guides)
- Track evolution of relevant city and State legislation and community engagement and/or planning processes as assigned, including attendance at meetings, documenting community priorities, and significant conflicts and areas of agreement
- Maintain positive relationships with key constituencies, staff, and external partners
- Represent MAS in coalitions, events, and panels where needed
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications

Bachelor's degree in Preservation, Community Development, Planning, or related field and three (3) years of related experience required in advocacy, organizing, or preservation.

Master's Degree may substitute for two (2) years of experience.

Successful candidates will also show the following characteristics and skill sets:

- Working knowledge of relevant city and state agencies and processes involved with the built environment
- Emotional intelligence and cultural competency
- Political Savvy and experience with campaigns, coalitions, and/or community-driven advocacy
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Ability to distill complex information to a diverse audience
- Activation strategies to increase public buy-in on initiatives
- Experience with advocacy groups and an understanding and appreciation of public policy, city building, architecture, design and preservation that drives the work of the Municipal Art Society
- A commitment to expanding the capacity for community-based planning
- An ability to lift up underrepresented voices within critical conversations

Work Culture and Employment Goals

Our staff includes planners, design experts, historians, civic leaders, community builders and advocates who love New York City. We work collaboratively across departments and with a wide variety of partners from across the boroughs. We hope you or someone you know can join us in our work!

The Municipal Art Society of New York is an equal opportunity employer and seeks qualified applicants without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation. MAS is committed to cultivating a staff with diverse backgrounds and life experiences that is representative of the communities in which we live and work.



Note that MAS is currently operating in a remote work environment, but in-office work will resume in the future. Proof of COVID vaccination is required.

How to Apply

Applicants should apply to jobs@mas.org. Please include "Advocacy Associate" in the subject line of your email message. Submission information should include a resume, and a letter describing their qualifications, interests, and potential impact in the role.

Address all correspondence to: Search Committee; ATTN: Advocacy Associate

Salary

Base- \$56,270

Salaries at the Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS) are set based on job-related duties, responsibilities and required knowledge, skills and abilities, not on the personal characteristics of any employees. Each job is evaluated and classified based on a combination of (1) its relative internal positioning as systematically compared to other jobs, and (2) the applicable competitive labor market range. The resulting classification for each job guides all base pay decisions in a way that results in competitive, equitable, cost-effective, legally compliant, and motivational salaries for all MAS employees.