

Project Director for Bricks and Mortals

Job Description

Mission Statement: Bricks and Mortals is driven by three goals: 1) To gather, educate, and build capacity for faith-based institutions facing the challenge of staying open and mission-consistent in the context of aging buildings, declining membership, and rising real estate costs; 2) Raise public awareness of the resources houses of worship provide to the city regardless of faith, including social services, cultural programming, after-school programs, and community meeting space; 3) Assess the variety of creative strategies that religious institutions might develop to sustain themselves and continue to provide their essential services to New York City.

For more information, please see the following articles:

[“Houses of worship grappling with Harlem’s development boom,”](#) *Crain’s New York* (March 18, 2019)

[“America’s Epidemic of Empty Churches,”](#) *The Atlantic* (November 25, 2018)

[“The Church with the \\$6 Billion Portfolio,”](#) *New York Times* (February 8, 2019)

Position Description

Provide strategic and effective support to the Bricks and Mortals Working Group to help houses of worship preserve their buildings and advance their missions through education, research, and organizing:

- **Research:** Coordinating with Bricks and Mortals partners to synthesize material from relevant, pre-existing studies on preserving and maintaining houses of worship. Surveying religiously diverse congregations on the state of their properties, challenges, and successful solutions, compiling a handbook for struggling congregations, and disseminating findings to relevant stakeholders.
- **Organizing:** Maintaining regular meetings of the Bricks and Mortals Working Group and helping to recruit additional faith-based institutions for membership and participation in the group. Collaborate with Bricks and Mortals partners to coordinate borough-wide forums.
- **Communication:** Educating the public, government agencies, elected officials, and faith-based and non-profit organizations about: the social service, cultural, and community-centered importance of houses of worship; the plight of sacred spaces to remain in operation and fulfill their missions amidst the pressures of increased maintenance costs and declining congregations; creative solutions, such as the adaptive re-use and reorientation of sacred spaces, and the sale of excess property.

Required Knowledge and Abilities

- Excellent organizational skills
- Effective presentation of ideas, information and materials, and facilitation of meetings and groups
- Ability to engage diverse faith and community-based organizations in the Bricks and Mortals mission
- Knowledge of relevant issues
- Good written, oral, and listening skills
- Enthusiasm for the project

Education and Experience

- Bachelor's degree
- Three years' experience in non-profit administration or equivalent.

Work Environment

- Office will be in Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012

Salary

- Commensurate with experience and includes benefits
- 12-month position to start Fall 2019 with possibility of renewal

Application

- Deadline: August 7th, 2019
- Send cover letter, resume and brief writing sample to bricksmortalspd@gmail.com
- Interview likely in mid/late August 2019.