

Planting Justice

Internship Description

Organization Name:

Planting Justice

Organization Description:

Planting Justice is a grassroots organization with a mission to empower people impacted by mass incarceration and other social inequities with the skills and resources to cultivate food sovereignty, economic justice, and community healing.

PJ's six innovative and highly integrated programs support 55 full-time staff members, including 30 formerly incarcerated people, with full-time living-wage jobs in urban farming, nursery production/management, ecological landscaping, community education, and peer mentorship that position them as change makers in their communities.

PJ's programs include:

- **2-acre Nursery** in Sobrante Park, Deep East Oakland, with over 1400 varieties of organic fruit and nut trees, fruit and berry bushes, and medicinal plants, as well as a community garden for local food distribution
- **4-acre Mother Farm** in El Sobrante, growing an orchard/food forest of over 1000 varieties of organic fruit and nut trees, fruit and berry bushes, herbs, native pollinators, and medicinal plants mainly for propagation at our East Oakland Nursery
- **Food Sovereignty Youth Leadership Program** that provides Food Justice education and growing opportunities at Oakland school sites as well as youth internships at the East Oakland Nursery
- **Reentry Program**, led by a formerly incarcerated coordinator, provides wrap-around support services to the over 30 staff directly impacted by mass incarceration, and includes group peer support, mental health counseling, life skills workshops, emergency housing support, and access to many other organizations that provide direct support (i.e. legal services, etc).
- **3-acre Aquaponics Farm & Training Center**, currently under construction next to PJ's East Oakland Nursery, will feature seven different aquaponic systems, producing thousands of pounds of organic greens and nursery starts while training cohorts of farmers to create a network of small-scale aquaponic farms all around East and West Oakland.
- **The Good Table Café, Nursery, & Industrial Kitchen**, currently under construction in downtown El Sobrante, will provide PJ with a satellite nursery, brick-&-mortar farm store, industrial kitchen to process Mother Farm and Aquaponics Farm produce, and, in partnership with the Good Table United Church of Christ, a pay-as-you-can café and community space.

Relevant Links:

www.plantingjustice.org/

Scope of Internship Work/Deliverables:

Mother Farm Internship:

Help steward an organic propagation orchard / food forest located on a 4-acre, south-facing slope in El Sobrante, CA.

Activities include: planting, pruning, harvesting, weeding, mulching, compost making, tool maintenance, irrigation maintenance, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, collaborating with other land stewards to care for the land with indigenous-based holistic, regenerative agricultural practices.

East Oakland Nursery Internship:

Assist the various nursery teams to learn all aspects of running a successful organic fruit tree nursery with a national client base.

Interns will rotate through the nursery teams: Land, Field, Propagation, Shipping, and Mother Plant to assist with various processes from propagation to plant care to facility maintenance to packaging to community gardening/food distribution.

Internship Location/Remote or In-Person?

In-person

East Oakland Nursery
319 105th Ave., Oakland, CA 94603

PJ Mother Orchard & Food Forest
Access on Marin Rd., El Sobrante, CA 94803

What environmental issues will the internship address?

Urban agriculture, regenerative growing practices, ecosystem conservation, food sovereignty, food justice, environmental justice, community growing and engagement.

Pay:

\$19/hour (\$16.50 per hour paid by Merritt College as a student worker; Planting Justice will make up the remaining \$2.50 per hour in direct payments to interns).

Desired Qualifications:

- Interest in community-based, regenerative “green” work
- Interest in Food Sovereignty and Food Justice work
- Mother Farm: Ability to work on a steep slope
- Ability to communicate (in English &/or Spanish) clearly and with compassion
- Ability to work in inclement weather
- Ability to lift 35-50 lbs.
- Gardening or farming, fruit tree care, restoration, horticulture basics, composting knowledge, and nursery background are all preferred skills but all are not necessary in order to apply.
- Spanish speakers encouraged to apply (translation services available)
- People who have been directly impacted by mass incarceration and other social inequities encouraged to apply

Special Requirements:

- Own transportation recommended—both Nursery and Mother Farm have BART / bus lines (relatively) nearby but time consuming.