

Urban Gardener - Job Description

This is an exciting time to join us and help shape the future of Kensington High Street and its environs. Working closely alongside other members of the BID team, local businesses, key stakeholders and suppliers, the Urban Gardener will be responsible for the delivery of a range of gardening projects and green space management initiatives that fulfil the objectives of the BID's business plan for its current term.

Salary: £23-26k per annum (Full Time equivalent)

Hours: Part-time (2 days per week, 1 day Opportunity Kensington BID, 1 day the Design Museum)

Some early morning, evening, and weekend working required. As the green assets in the BID area are increased, further working days may be available to the postholder.

Standard benefits are offered including 22 days holiday per annum (pro rata), in addition to public holidays and a contributory pension.

Location: Opportunity Kensington / the Design Museum

Reports to: Welcoming Public Spaces Manager, Opportunity Kensington

The role is a shared position, working on behalf of two organisations: Opportunity Kensington BID and the Design Museum.

Opportunity Kensington, a new Business Improvement District centred around Kensington High Street, and the Design Museum are seeking an experienced Urban Gardener to develop and manage a network of diverse, high-quality green spaces in the Kensington neighbourhood. The Urban Gardener will develop opportunities for Kensington businesses and residents to participate in small-scale greening projects by leading volunteer days and events.

The Design Museum initiated the [Growing Together project](#) in 2020 to rethink and remake the Dame Sylvia Crowe Garden and explore design and horticulture as catalysts for positive social change. The Urban Gardener will support this project, working with the Learning Team and a cohort of volunteers who share stewardship of the Dame Sylvia Crowe Garden. This group meets each week to care for the space and develop new skills.

Job Overview

This hands-on role will provide great outdoor green spaces for our businesses, residents, local workers, and visitors to enjoy. Activities and responsibilities will be varied and require an adaptable, creative, and flexible approach as Opportunity Kensington and its horticultural programme evolves and grows. The work will be aligned with the [RBKC Biodiversity Action Plan 2022 - 2027](#)

The Urban Gardener will:

- Manage, develop, and maintain a network of diverse, high-quality green assets on behalf of Opportunity Kensington and the Design Museum, namely the Dame Sylvia Crowe Garden (with the Growing Together project volunteers);
- Develop, with project partners, a programme of engaging green volunteering activities for local residents and workers to actively participate in;
- Develop a management plan for the green spaces and enter London in Bloom and Green Flag Awards;
- Ensure the highest horticultural and environmental standards in their day-to-day work.

Person specification

Opportunity Kensington aims to attract and retain people from all backgrounds.

There is no preference for a candidate to have prior knowledge of Business Improvement Districts, however relevant experience and skills will need be demonstrated in the following areas.

Required skills and experience

We are seeking a keen, dedicated and responsible gardener who can demonstrate the following qualities and experience:

- A NVQ Level 3 (amenity horticulture) or RHS General Qualification or higher in a relevant horticultural subject.
- Working experience as a gardener
- Able and willing to work as part of a small team, and comfortable with lone working
- Excellent interpersonal skills, experience working with communities and ability to build strong working relationships.
- Able to develop an engaging programme of green space volunteer activities
- Ability to write greenspace management plans;
- Ability to design simple and engaging planting designs;
- Ability to identify a wide range of shrub and plant species;
- Ability to provide a high standard of sustainable greenspace maintenance
- Experience using a wide range of grounds maintenance equipment;
- Awareness of Health & Safety legislation relating to grounds maintenance;
- A conscientious approach to personal health and safety in the workplace;
- Willingness to undertake additional training.

Desirable

- Understanding of the importance of high-quality green spaces in urban environments
- Understanding of Business Improvement Districts
- DBS (Disclosure Baring Service) check*

How to apply

Applicants should send a CV and short cover letter outlining their interest in the role and relevant experience to Emanuele de Angelis at eda@opportunitykensington.co.uk

We welcome applications from all, regardless of personal characteristics or background.

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the right to work in the UK. We regret that owing to the high level of response expected we will not be able to contact unsuccessful applicants.

** Successful candidates will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check at [Basic/Standard/Enhanced] level, due to the nature of the role involving [working with vulnerable individuals/handling sensitive data/positions of trust].*

Deadline: Sunday 12th November

Interviews: W/C 20th November

About Opportunity Kensington

Opportunity Kensington is a Business Improvement District (BID) centred around Kensington High Street. Information about the BID area, its governance and strategic priorities, can be found in the Opportunity Kensington [Proposal](#) 2022 – 27.

Following a successful ballot result in early 2022, Opportunity Kensington formally launched on 01 April.

About Design Museum

The Design Museum is considered one of the world's leading museums devoted to architecture and design. Since the Design Museum opened its doors in 1989 it has displayed everything from an AK-47 to high heels designed by Christian Louboutin. The Design Museum has staged over 100 exhibitions, welcomed over seven million visitors, and showcased the work of some of the world's most celebrated designers and architects including Paul Smith, Zaha Hadid, Jonathan Ive, Frank Gehry, Eileen Gray and Dieter Rams.

In November 2016, The Design Museum relocated to Kensington, west London. Leading architectural designer John Pawson converted the interior of the former Commonwealth Institute to create a new home for the Design Museum giving it three times more space in which to show a wider range of exhibitions and significantly extend its learning programme.

A registered charity, the museum generates most of its operating budget from admissions, retail, charitable donations and sponsorship.

The [Growing Together project](#) is engaging local residents to rethink, reshape and share stewardship of the Dame Sylvia Crowe Garden at the Design Museum. This green area was named in memory of the pioneering landscape architect who designed the landscaping for the Commonwealth Institute in 1962. The project brings attention to the site as an inclusive learning and research space, raising awareness of sustainable design and horticulture practices, informing new narratives and collective action committed to the [Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Biodiversity Action Plan 2022 – 2027](#).