



## THE SALISBURY CENTRE

### VOLUNTEER ROLE TITLE: SEED LIBRARY VOLUNTEER

#### ABOUT THE SALISBURY CENTRE SEED LIBRARY PROJECT

The Salisbury Centre is delighted to announce that we received a City of Edinburgh Council Community Grants Fund (South East Locality) for a 1 year Seed Library project, now running at the centre from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022.

We are committed to developing further as a community resource hub for ecological sustainability and the Seed Library (Edinburgh's first!) will play an important role in doing so.

We envision the Seed Library to become a physical hub in our public library room (potentially with a digital aspect) where communally saved seed is stored and shared among (aspiring) home and community growers. We will focus on open pollinated seed varieties of common food crops and pollinator-friendly flowers, so seeds can be saved into the future and continue to adapt to local conditions. Community members will contribute to an ecological food system where we can all grow nutritious food for free, as well as learn about the cultural, political and environmental dimensions of seed-saving. The Seed Library will provide a platform for a community engagement and education programme by hosting regular events, workshops and volunteer-led seed sharing circles. Our recently developed food-growing garden will offer the possibility for on-site seed-saving and practical learning.

We look forward to collaborating and learning together with other seed-saving initiatives across Edinburgh as part of the Edinburgh Seed Network.

#### ROLE DESCRIPTION

We are looking for committed and motivated volunteers to join our budding Seed Library team. There are a number of different roles available and your responsibilities may change throughout the project and be adapted to your interests, skills, and seasonal requirements. We invite and encourage you to bring your own ideas, creativity, experience and dreams to this volunteer-led project!

You are welcome to be involved in one or all aspects of the project, including:

- The physical library
- Events and workshops
- Seed sharing circles
- Gardening and growing activities

#### Specific tasks:

- Maintaining regular communication with the project co-ordinator and the team of volunteers
- Attending trainings and educational events, potentially visiting other community gardens and seed saving initiatives (where restrictions allow)
- Taking care of seed growing plants in the garden, as well as planting, harvesting, cleaning, storing and labelling seeds
- Assisting in planning, publicising, hosting, and possibly leading activities such as workshops and seed swaps
- Contributing to the planning, construction and upkeep of the physical seed library and potential online presence
- Welcoming visitors to the seed library, the centre and the garden and sharing your knowledge and experience during events and general open hours
- Assisting to administer project outcome measurement tools (e.g attendance and engagement records, feedback, demographic data, etc.)
- Contributing to developing an ongoing programme after the lifespan of the project



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#### SKILLS, EXPERIENCE, ATTRIBUTES & COMMITMENT REQUIRED

##### Essential skills & attributes:

- A keen interest in seed saving, food growing, and building community with people and nature
- Willingness to learn new skills
- Reliability
- Good team-working and communication skills, and experience working in teams
- Creativity and ideas
- Ability to work outdoors doing some level of physical activity (for gardening activities and building the physical library only)
- A passion for bringing together diverse groups of people, and for using nature-connection, food growing and seed saving as ways to build community
- Willingness to follow the Centre's [Terms & Conditions](#), and to act with respect to the Salisbury Centre's vision, mission and values as well as community members, other centre users and the environment

##### Advantageous skills & attributes:

- Knowledge or experience of: seed-saving, food growing, wild/native plants to Scotland, gardening and/or horticulture
- Experience of working or volunteering in a small community-led charity/organisation
- Facilitation, presentation and communication skills (online and in-person)
- Wood working and other building skills and experience
- Experience of hosting community events and facilitating conversations
- Familiarity with or willingness to learn and use Google Mail, Google Drive, Google Docs, and Google Jamboards, as well as Zoom, Facebook and/or Instagram for activities, communication and publicity

##### Commitment required

The project runs until March 2022. Ideally volunteers will be with us for as long as possible, and even beyond the lifespan of the project. Ideal would be a regular and planned contribution of around 1-2 hours per week (depending on the project needs and the availability of other team members this will vary). There will be some activities running in the evenings and on weekends, and lots of short-term parts of the project for you to get involved in if you cannot commit long-term or have less time.

We want to make sure that volunteering with the Salisbury Centre fits in with your other responsibilities and commitments. In conversation we can agree on a commitment that works for you in terms of how often and how regularly you can volunteer.

#### INCLUSIVITY & ACCESSIBILITY

We are striving towards a diverse and inclusive community environment therefore we gladly welcome volunteers from all races, gender identities, ethnic minorities, ages, classes, sexual orientations and we welcome differently abled volunteers.

##### Physical access

Most of the spaces relevant to the Seed Library Project are located on the ground floor and the Salisbury Centre has newly built access paths and disabled toilets. However, access to the garden currently still involves a few steps.



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At the moment many of our activities are online until Covid-restrictions ease. Once in-person volunteering is possible, some roles, such as building the physical seed library and volunteering in the garden will require physical activity and some physical fitness. The majority of available roles do not require particular physical abilities and we are keen to work together on adapting any role to your needs and skills.

If you have access needs of any kind or ideas on how to make the project more accessible, please let us know of anything we can do to support you to volunteer in the Salisbury Centre.

#### WHAT WE OFFER VOLUNTEERS

Our Seed Library Project Co-ordinator, Hannah, will support you throughout your volunteering activities and you will be part of a wider team of Salisbury Centre volunteers, as well as the Edinburgh Seed Network. All volunteers will receive both a general Centre induction and a role-specific induction, and we will do our best to provide any training you need for your role including:

- Saving seed from common food crops and pollinator-friendly flowers
- Growing with seed-saving in mind
- Seed harvesting, cleaning and storing
- Facilitating seed sharing circles

You will have opportunities to:

- Work on an exciting project in a lovely environment and be part of a mutually supportive team.
- Creatively contribute to a project which has wider aims to make a difference to the environment and strengthen community responses to social and food inequalities, climate change and environmental degradation
- Develop or maintain an understanding of seed sovereignty, food growing, seed saving, and planetary health, as well as confidence in communicating these issues.
- Develop or maintain skills such as event planning, basic building and gardening skills
- Collaborate with other Salisbury Centre volunteers in the garden, at community celebrations and events, and with members of the Edinburgh Seed Network.
- Attend regular workshops, skill-shares, socials and events in the lovely premises of the Salisbury Centre, online and beyond (in collaboration with the Edinburgh Seed Network).

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

If you're interested in joining our volunteer team or have any questions about the Seed Library Project, the different roles or the application process, please contact the project co-ordinator Hannah at [hannah@salisburycentre.org](mailto:hannah@salisburycentre.org)

To find out more about other volunteering roles at the centre, please email the Volunteer and Outreach Worker at [mika@salisburycentre.org](mailto:mika@salisburycentre.org)