



**Need:** College students will be recruited to serve as peer mentors for high-school age students from underserved communities who will participate in a Theater Arts Collaborative that will be hosted by Roosevelt High School and facilitated by the staff of Project Safety Net, NY.

**Role:** College Peer Mentor

**Time Frame:** Year 2019-2020: September - March

**Hours:** 3 hours weekly on a regular basis (in addition, there may be an occasional agency meeting and/or field trip)

**Supervisor:** Jane Bertsch-Wells, Director of Community Engagement and Grant Programs at Project Safety Net NY

**Job Description:** Community-based non-profit agency Project Safety Net NY (PSN) is looking for skilled and engaging college students to act as peer mentors to high-school age LGBTQ youth from underserved communities on Long Island who will participate in a Theater Arts Collaborative in partnership with Roosevelt High School. Emphasizing diversity and highlighting a Gay-Straight Alliance, this is an interdisciplinary initiative that utilizes the arts to support community-building activities, story-telling and peer mentoring. The role of the college peer mentor is to push into weekly workshops and work alongside the PSN's CDC Grant Program Care Navigators to provide outreach to a subgroup of the students within the larger group of students participating within the Theater Arts Collaborative. Peer mentors will target the needs of what the CDC terms a "hard to reach" population, high-school age minority young men who have sex with men (YMSM ages 16-20), a group at high risk for HIV/AIDs. Assisting the grant program's Care Navigators, College Peer Mentors, will regularly attend structured workshops where they will follow up with outreach and peer engagement designed to educate YMSM, empowering them to embrace their identities, ensure and advocate for their health and wellness and promote this positive messaging around HIV prevention within their communities.

**Internship Opportunity:**

While this is an unpaid position, we encourage college students to join our agency in the role of a student intern. We are willing to tailor hours to suit the departmental requirements for internships, and we will complete all paperwork and/or processes necessary to provide school credit, as well as provide interns the opportunity develop essential skills and create a professional portfolio which includes providing successful interns detailed oral and written references. **Given the interdisciplinary nature of this collaborative, there are a variety of academic departments that may find this internship experience useful: Communications, Health and Science, Theater Arts, Psychology, Sociology or Social Work, Education and Gender Studies.**

**Responsibilities:**

- Assist team with the development and promotion of student engagement and interdisciplinary performance within the Theater Arts Collaborative.



- Provide the following push-in services within the Theater Arts Collaborative for the HIV high-risk population PSN's CDC funded program serves, Young Men of Color Who Have Sex with Men (YMSM, 16 yrs. – 20 yrs.):
  - ❖ Collaborate with the CDC Care Navigators to facilitate one-on-one and small group workshops that address HIV prevention and support.
  - ❖ Collaborate with CDC Care Navigators to provide outreach to YMSM within the Theater Arts Collaborative to promote outside activities to support the CDC program's HIV prevention goals (e.g. LGBTQ Pride discussions, PreP workshops, and testing events within the community and at the agency's Safe Space).
  - ❖ Collaborate with CDC Care Navigators to provide and support opportunities for YMSM to develop and exercise self-advocacy and leaderships skills within the community.

#### **Requirements**

- Must be working towards an undergraduate or graduate degree
- Must demonstrate an appreciation, respect and comfortability working with a diverse range of high-school age students, notably LGBTQ and minority youth from underserved communities
- Must demonstrate maturity and care when dealing with confidential and personal information
- Must have strong interpersonal and oral/written communication skills
- Must possess a strong sense of accountability, critical thinking/problem-solving skills and active listening skills

#### **Desired Qualifications and Characteristics**

- Experience working within the creative arts
- Experience working with the LGBTQ community with a special focus on YMSM of color
- A good sense of humor and a creative imagination
- An interest in learning about the health and wellness issues with regard to HIV as it relates to YMSM of color