Cooper’s Ferry Partnership
Camden, NJ

Mission Statement:
Cooper’s Ferry Partnership (CFP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that leverages partnerships with public, private, and other non-profit entities to execute long-term, sustainable economic development in the city of Camden, New Jersey with the goal of making the city an attractive place to visit, live, work, and invest.

CFP believes in a holistic, market-driven approach to achieving its mission, which centers on the following goals:

- Create market conditions in the downtown that stimulate private sector investment and job growth without government subsidy.
- Support the long-term development of neighborhoods outside of the downtown to ensure that economic growth benefits all residents.
- Make the Camden Waterfront a regional destination for tourism to enhance Camden’s image and create economic development opportunities.

To accomplish these goals, CFP undertakes three main categories of projects:

- Business Development:
  - Oversight of new public and private investment opportunities and redevelopment throughout the city
- Neighborhood Initiatives:
  - Partnerships with local community development groups to assist in the planning and implementation of neighborhood plans and priority projects
  - CFP offers groups with technical assistance in fundraising and grant writing, capacity building, project management, and community outreach
- Downtown and Policy:
  - Management of the Camden Special Services District (force dedicated to the cleanliness, maintenance, and security of the city)
  - Coordination of special events (e.g. Fourth of July Freedom Festival)
  - Planning and implementation of policy initiatives throughout the city

Internship Title:
CFP Summer Intern

On-site Supervisor/Co-educator: Sue Brennan
Senior Project Manager
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One Port Center
2 Riverside Drive, Suite 501
Camden, NJ 08103

Additional Contact: Joe Myers
Chief Operating Officer
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REV: July 2015
Supervision Plan:
CFP will assign interns to one of its departments depending on their interests. The student’s direct supervisor will be one of the company’s project managers within this department. The student will be working closely with the supervisor on a daily basis. There will be many opportunities outside of the specific job description to attend meetings on other issues/projects related to development in the city. CFP wishes for its interns not only to receive a thorough introduction to topics of greatest interest, but also to gain exposure to a wide variety of different fields.

Duties/Project Description:

Duties
- CFP will work with interns to choose 2-3 projects on which they will focus throughout the duration of their internship. Interns will assume varying levels of ownership on these projects (depending on their scope and importance) and work directly with coworkers and public, private, and non-profit stakeholders throughout the community to work towards the projects’ completion.
- Attend local and regional meetings on topics relevant to main focus areas
- Occasionally attend, promote, and/or volunteer at events in Camden
- Perform both work in the office and fieldwork within Camden
- Provide assistance to staff when needed on various tasks
- Assist with research for potential funding opportunities

Categories of Potential Projects
- Arts and Culture Initiatives
- Community Programming
- Grant Research
- Neighborhood Plans
- Parks and Trails
- Real Estate and Business Development
- Waterfront Events
- Safety, Cleanliness, and Maintenance Initiatives

Qualifications and Expectations:
1. Students are expected to have strong written and verbal communication, and interpersonal skills as well as good organizational, time management, and problem solving skills.
2. Students are expected to adhere to an agreed upon work schedule, and maintain clear and consistent records of activities and hours spent related to the internship.
3. Project managers in the office are responsible for providing comprehensive oversight for projects (throughout the planning, funding, design, permitting, and construction phases). Students are expected to help manage, facilitate, and assist staff with these efforts.
4. Students are expected to be extremely detailed oriented individuals.
5. The office is a business environment. Therefore, all staff and interns are expected to act and behave in a first class business manner, including but not limited to dress attire, interactions, and demeanor.

REV: July 2015
Non-English language requirement?
No, but conversational proficiency in Spanish is helpful for some projects

Is the organizational accessible via public transportation?
Yes

Does the internship require use of personal vehicle?
No, but helpful if possible

Working Conditions:
The intern will be expected to work a standard work week (Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) with occasional meetings and events in the evening. The dress code ranges from business to business casual depending on the day’s activities. The student will have his/her own workstation as part of an open-bay arrangement.

Preparation:
2015 Cooper’s Ferry Annual Report:

Cooper’s Ferry Partnership and Camden Waterfront Websites

Additional Comments:
Camden is located on the east bank of the Delaware River, directly opposite Philadelphia. Camden has its share of entertainment options, with several local bars/restaurants, an aquarium, minor league baseball stadium, and the region’s leading outdoor concert venue all within walking distance. Also, there is a subway line that runs through the downtown and provides access to the major entertainment and cultural attractions in Philadelphia in less than ten minutes. Additionally, a light rail train line runs through the downtown to the Amtrak/NJ Transit station in Trenton, NJ, with direct links to New York City.

The city of Camden consistently ranks among the poorest cities in the United States, yet it has a plethora of resources that offer a great deal of hope for an economic rebirth. It is located directly across the river from the sixth largest city in America, has extraordinary infrastructure and transportation access by rail, sea and air, and is surrounded by riverfront on three sides. After decades of severe decline, the level of economic activity has been on the rise, with more than five hundred million dollars of reinvestment over the past five years. But, there is still a great deal to be done. People in Camden often say that it is as if someone took all of the major problems of the inner city—drugs, crime, a failing education system, public health issues, lack of economic advancement—and dropped them on a small town (the city’s population is less than 80,000 residents). That is to say, Camden offers a front-row look at the major issues of urban poverty in a setting that is small enough for a student to truly get involved and make a difference. For a program that proposes to study poverty, it is (unfortunately) difficult to think of a better place to do it.

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