

LLIKCHARY INSTITUTE

CALL FOR VOLUNTEER ARCHITECTS

POSITION

Architect

LOCATION

Sani Isla, Sucumbios, Ecuador 0°28'30"S, 76°18'47"W

DURATION

From 2 to 6 Months (extension possible)

TIMING

Starting in July or August (we can be flexible)

Summary

Immerse yourself in the amazon rainforest and kichwa culture and use your skills to contribute to an integrative project for indigenous development as well as rainforest protection.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Llikchary Institute will be an inspirational learning center and high school which strives to combat indigenous cultural erosion, ensure Amazon forest conservation, and provide a conduit for Kichwa elders to share their knowledge and language.

The Institute will instill a sense of pride in cultural traditions in younger generations and the local community while providing international students, travelers, scientists and researchers a chance to immerse themselves in authentic cultural experiences. We will offer regular classes for community members and full time live-in programs and workshops for international visitors.

PROJECT AND DESIGN PHASE DESCRIPTION

We are currently in the first phase of the project, which consists of preparing a solid base for all future development of the institute. This includes: building a house for volunteers and its warehouse, working together as the institute main gate, and walkway to the institute.

A detailed project of the house has been drawn, the building site has been cleaned up, materials and tools are being collected and timber is getting cut. Construction is expected to start at the end of June 2015.

Upcoming phases are designing the institute master plan, designing and building the

walkway, designing the first and main buildings of the institute.

TASK DESCRIPTION

The volunteer architect will primarily be focused on designing the main building of the institute and the walkway, and follow up with the construction on site according to the project, depending on the current priorities and agenda. All roles will require that this individual communicate and collaborate with local workers and other volunteers, keep updating regularly the local project leader, project manager and project architect/design team on construction progress, issues and on-site changes. Remotely, this may require images and text or Internet calls (internet is available on site). Other tasks may include ordering of required building materials and supplies, on-site solving of construction details, travelling to town (3 hours journey with motorized canoe) and manual work on site.

SKILLS NEEDED

- Minimum 2 years practice, experience in building construction
- Architecture bachelor degree (master degree preferred)
- Experience in timber construction (bamboo building experience is also welcome)
- Previous experience in self-construction or on-location architectural volunteering is an asset (but not required)
- Skills in manual drawing (sketching and technical), physical modeling with different materials (concept and presentation); CAD drawing is optional as electricity and printing cannot be provided steadily at the moment
- Knowledge in Office package, ability to manage Excel spreadsheets
- Ability and will to manually help in the construction process
- Ability to work in challenging conditions in terms of communication, planning and reliability
- Organization and planning skills, ability to work self-sufficient and self-organized; project management experience is an asset
- Flexibility, comprehension and resilience towards cultural differences and social problems

LANGUAGES

- Spanish (a basic level is required)
- English (a basic level would be an asset)

ACCOMODATION AND LIVING

Before the main structure and roof will be erected, volunteers will live in a tent on site (provided with cooker and rain tarp) or, if the number of volunteer is low enough, they can be hosted in a nearby house. Later, they will live in the volunteer house during completion.

Living conditions are rough compared to western standards and hygienic standards will be quite limited, especially in the early first phase as there wont be toilets, bathrooms or running water. Drinking water comes usually from rainwater or wells depending on the

season, and can be filtered on site. Proximity to the Napo River make it easy for cloth washing and daily baths.

Volunteers will pay for own food supplies that can be bought in the closest town (El Coca, 3 hours by canoe) or at Saturday markets (In Providencia, 1 hour by canoe). Some food can also be found locally and bought in the community.

As alcohol abuse is a serious issue in the community, volunteers are required to consume alcoholic drinks very moderately. This is part of the ethic mission of the Llikchary Institute project.

HEALTH

Volunteers might take all necessary vaccinations, and are advised to buy travel insurance. Volunteers should be of good health and in a fit condition as the environment and climate can be harsh.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Candidates are asked to send a short motivation letter, resume or CV and portfolio (less than 10 mb), as soon as possible, to:

Anja Robel

llikchary@gmail.com

Submitted material will be reviewed as soon as received. Chosen candidates will receive further information as required.