The Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative (BCDI) is a community-led effort to build an equitable, sustainable, and democratic local economy that creates shared wealth and ownership for low-income people of color—what we call economic democracy. We have a technology and innovation program called the Bronx Innovation Factory, that seeks to use digital fabrication and electronics to create community wealth and innovations that matter for Bronx residents.

We are looking for someone to grow our community of innovators, including young people, workers, and community members of color across the Bronx, while creating programs that guide them through the innovation process to develop new products and businesses. This person will design and drive all innovation and tech entrepreneurship programming within BCDI, with significant opportunities for growth as we work toward a full-scale center for advanced manufacturing. (Read more about our vision here.)

This position will report to the Executive Director and is designed to be a hands-on implementation role for at least the first year. Over time, as we gather additional momentum and resources, this role will shift to focus on growing the space, team, and reach of the Bronx Innovation Factory, supervising other frontline support staff to lead recruitment and teaching. This is the perfect position for someone passionate about the Bronx, racial justice, and using technology for social and economic transformation. The right candidate will be entrepreneurial and will have a chance to significantly shape the trajectory and impact of the Bronx Innovation Factory as it develops.

Job Responsibilities Include:

- Working with senior BCDI leadership, field experts and Bronx stakeholders to develop the roadmap to achieve our long-term vision, including identifying necessary partners, resource needs, potential site locations, business model, etc.;
- Develop, execute and evaluate programming that engages our community, including workforce training programs, public workshops, open access nights, speaker events, and innovation challenges;
- In collaboration with the Strategic Partnerships Manager, develop key partnerships within CBOs, schools, universities, labor unions and others to recruit burgeoning innovators for our programs;
- Ensure proper functioning and maintenance of the Innovation Factory space, while identifying new equipment and materials needed to enhance programming.

Required Skills and Experience Include:

- At least five years of work experience, primarily in community-based or economic development organizations, with at least three of those years teaching and developing curricula for programs related to digital fabrication;
- Experience with deep community engagement including community organizing, and/or outreach;
- Excellent communication and project management skills;
- Supervisory experience of leading a team;
- Knowledge of the fields of advanced manufacturing and technology, as well as familiarity with design thinking and specific digital fabrication technologies, including 3D modeling and printing, 2D design and laser cutting, CNC machining, and electronics
- Experience working in the Bronx or other historically disinvested community; and
- Commitment to social inclusion; anti-oppression; and racial, gender, and economic justice.

Preferred Skills:

- Fluency in Spanish
- Familiarity with the fields of economic development, urban policy, innovation ecosystems, and/or business incubation
- Familiarity with economic democracy
- Background in engineering or product design
- Background in entrepreneurship

Compensation:

$65,000-70,000, commensurate with experience and with anticipated growth as the program and responsibilities grow

To Apply:

Send a résumé and cover letter to jobs@bcdi.nyc with the subject line “Director of the Bronx Innovation Factory” by Monday, March 23, 2020. Anticipated start date is Monday, May 4, 2020.

Additional Info:

This position requires a flexible schedule. BCDI’s regular business hours are 10 am to 6 pm on weekdays. However, this position may require working evenings and weekends, to accommodate participants’ schedules. BCDI offers comp time to offset hours worked outside of normal business hours.

People of color, people with disabilities, women, and LGBTQ candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. We are committed to a diverse workplace, and to supporting our staff with ongoing career development opportunities.
BCDI is an equal opportunity employer and prohibits discriminatory employment actions and treatment against employees and applicants for employment based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, past incarceration, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, or place of residence or business. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, which is prohibited by law, as is harassment based on any of the above-protected categories.