DUKE EYE CENTER ARTS PROGRAM

POSITION OVERVIEW:
As a docent or gallery guide in the Touchable Art Gallery at Duke Eye Center you will host patients and visitors of all ages, both visually impaired and sighted. You will engage them in a meaningful experience with the artwork on display. Our exhibitions are accessible and multi-sensory.

TITLE: Touchable Art Gallery Docent

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Engage visitors with the artwork on display
- Visit waiting areas and present artwork from the gallery.
- Assist in keeping gallery clean
- Distribute coloring pages and crayons to younger visitors

INITIAL IMPACT:
The arts program at Duke Eye Center enriches the patient’s experience, affects patients’ perceived waiting time, and distinguishes the Eye Center from other eye care facilities. Approximately 2000 people visit the Touchable Gallery every year, with many more served by our “Hands-on-art” cart circulating in patient waiting areas.

SUSTAINED OUTCOMES:
The lives of patients, their family members, and other gallery visitors are enriched by hands-on, multi-sensory arts experience. They are introduced to a positive attitude and a focus on the creative abilities of people who are visually impaired. They are more likely to seek out arts experiences cultural institutions in their own communities and to advocate for multi-sensory arts encounters.

TRAININGS:
- General Volunteer Orientation and Training Session
- Health Screening, Background Check
- Individualized and job specific training will be provided by Arts & Health at Duke.
**SUPPORT:**
The Duke Eye Center Arts Program Coordinator provides support and guidance for volunteers in this position. Gallery docents also rely on Eye Center Receptionists to provide general information about the facility and the Medical Center campus.

**COMMITMENT:**
A minimum of one year, or one academic year for students. Volunteers are expected to serve a minimum of one 3-4 hour shift each week. They may serve additional shifts depending on availability. Volunteer service may occur during the following business hours: weekdays, 8 am – 5 pm. No evening or weekend hours are available.

**LOCATION OF VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT:**
Duke Eye Center, 2315 Erwin Rd, Durham, NC 27705. (Duke Medical Center Campus, adjacent to Duke University West Campus)

**QUALIFICATIONS:**
Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and have an interest in the arts. They should be comfortable working with people who are living with disabilities, especially vision loss. Email access is important for receiving schedules and important program updates.

**SKILLS:**
Excellent communication & interpersonal skills are required. The ability to listen and to empathize are extremely important. Knowledge of visual art terminology and art history is very helpful.

**BENEFITS:**
Volunteers will experience direct contact with both adult and pediatric patients and their caregivers who are coming for Ophthalmology appointments and surgeries. Volunteers will benefit from serving in a friendly, busy clinical atmosphere where encounters with the arts offer a positive distraction in what can be a stressful healthcare experience.