



HONORING
OUR
COMPLEXITIES

FORGE FORWARD 2007 CONFERENCE

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN - MARCH 29-APRIL 1, 2007

PO BOX 1272, MILWAUKEE, WI 53201
CONFERENCE@FORGE-FORWARD.ORG 414-559-2123

Email Subject: Volunteer Organizers Needed for National FORGE Conference

***** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE WIDELY *****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT INFORMATION: FORGE FORWARD 2007 Conference
PO Box 1272
Milwaukee, WI 53201
www.forge-forward.org/conference
conference@forge-forward.org

December 19, 2006

The workshop confirmations and registrations are rolling in for the FORGE Forward 2007 Conference and Intensives, scheduled for Milwaukee, Wisconsin, March 29 - April 1, 2007, and now we need more help!

We have literally dozens of organizers' jobs for which we need volunteers. Several of these allow a volunteer coordinator to put his own stamp on a particular piece of the conference: art show; author readings; buddy/mentor program; entertainers' stage crew; massage coordinator; rites of passage; singles event(s); vendors; and yoga/meditation. These coordinators are expected to work with the conference organizers to design and schedule a particular type of programming, recruit others if necessary, and make sure all goes as planned at the conference itself.

Another group of jobs require the donation of professional skills and/or connections: ASL interpreters; childcare coordinator; legal advice; medical emergencies coordinator; mental health/crisis coordinator; and security coordinator. Many of these jobs require pre-conference recruitment and scheduling of additional volunteers, along with their onsite training and management. We are also looking for skilled, volunteer masters/mistresses of ceremonies to stage-manage lengthy plenary events, and visual/sound system engineers to organize, oversee, and trouble-shoot rented equipment for both workshops and plenaries.

If you live in the Milwaukee area, we have several volunteer opportunities we need local folks to fill. We need both a housing coordinator and a transportation coordinator to solicit volunteer hosts or drivers, match those in need with those with resources, and help resolve problems as they arise the weekend of the conference. We also need several volunteers to solicit local businesses and restaurants for donations and coupons. And if your idea of an exciting afternoon or evening is stuffing envelopes, PLEASE let us know!



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Still haven't made a match between your interests and our needs? Then perhaps you are one of the special people we are looking for. We need a highly dedicated, organized, and skilled person to take on perhaps the most challenging job: volunteer coordinator. The volunteer coordinator must have relevant experience and sufficient available time to permit hir to effectively recruit, schedule, train, and manage the dozens of onsite volunteers a smooth-running conference depends on. We are also looking for someone with media experience and creativity to shore up our media outreach efforts pre-conference and oversee media representatives during the conference. Are you a skilled or aspiring retail manager? We need a person or a close-knit team to manage onsite T-shirt sales.

The Conference has posted job descriptions for all of these positions. In addition to a list of each job's responsibilities, the descriptions include our assessment of how much work is involved before and/or at the conference itself and whether volunteers can work from anywhere or need to be located in Southeastern Wisconsin. The descriptions - and how to volunteer - are available at <http://www.forge-forward.org/conference/participate/volunteer.php>

In addition to the excitement and kudos involved in helping pull off what promises to be an exciting, even life-changing, event, all conference volunteers will receive small stipends they can use to reduce their own registration fees or donate to the scholarship fund. Very low-income participants who do pre-conference volunteer work will also be put on the priority list for additional scholarship assistance as it becomes available.

What else are we missing? If you've got an idea or are experienced with a constituency that has sometimes been dissatisfied with or overlooked by previous trans/SOFFA conferences, we'd like to hear from you. Email conference@forge-forward.org

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The FORGE Forward 2007 Conference's philosophy is inclusion-focused. We value individuality, diversity, and complexity -- believing that together, all of us make a stronger, more supportive and vibrant community.

For more information, contact
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www.forge-forward.org/conference