

BARKERVILLE

— HISTORIC TOWN & PARK —

Governed by: Barkerville Heritage Trust
14301 Highway 26 East
PO Box 19, Barkerville, BC, V0K 1B0 (www.barkerville.ca)

Job Posting: Historical Interpreter - Chinatown

JOB SUMMARY

Job title: Historical Interpreter - Chinatown

Classification: Presentation 1

Position: Full-time, Seasonal

Duration: 35 hours per week, May 15 – September 13, 2024

Posting: Internal/External

Closing Date: Friday, January 31, 2024, or until filled.

Salary: \$25.68 plus privileges as dispersed according to the Collective Agreement between the BCGEU and Barkerville Heritage Trust.

Barkerville Historic Town & Park is the largest and most significant living museum and heritage asset in Western North America. It was the centre of the Cariboo Gold Rush whose repercussions through history can still be felt today. The site is owned by the Province of British Columbia and managed on their behalf by the Barkerville Heritage Trust, a non-profit society and registered charity.

Chinese people represented the majority of the population in Barkerville by the height of the Gold Rush and were an important and integral part of the Cariboo gold mining community despite rampant discrimination. The Chinese population of Barkerville was approximately 3,000 people at its peak. In the early years, these were mostly men who were labourers, merchants, and miners. However, in the later years, there were many families in Barkerville's Chinese community, and many of them still live in the region.

Your Role:

You will be part of a team that constantly strives to meet the vision of an authentic, unique, world-class experience for everyone to enjoy. You will be required to perform a variety of skills that will aid in the presentation and interpretation of Barkerville's history focusing on the life of the Chinese people, where they came from, and their stories during the development of Barkerville, the Cariboo Goldfields, and British Columbia.

Orientation and Supervision: (how the position fits into the company structure)

- Position receives training, guidance, and general direction from, and reports to the Chinese Cultural Coordinator and the Manager of Public Programming & Media.
- Position works within the Presentation department, under the leadership of the Manager of Public Programming and Media.

- Performs all operational duties based upon industry standards and guided by the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* and the *BC Heritage Conservation Act* to ensure the continued conservation of collections.
- Works as a team member with all Barkerville Heritage Trust site staff and contractors.
- Performs all operational duties following Barkerville's standards, policies, and procedures.
- Maintains high ethical and code of conduct standards as per Barkerville guidelines.

Main tasks or responsibilities (core duties of the position, including but not limited to):

- Deliver programs according to the performance schedule provided by the manager or supervisor.
- Perform 60-minute Guided Chinatown Tours.
- Perform and deliver 30-minute multi-aged Chinatown schoolhouse lessons.
- Perform demonstrations, historically themed vignettes and/or discussions, one-on-one or public hosting, informal happenings, and special event programming throughout the heritage zone of Barkerville.
- Research the life and occupation, and convincingly portray and maintain the authenticity of an historic or composite character that lived in, or could have lived in, Barkerville during its interpretive history (1862 - 1942), and maintain an energetic, positive personae with visitors while providing high quality and consistent demonstrations of late-19th to early-20th century, etiquette, speech, mannerisms, occupations, and general behaviour.
- Ensure that performances and visitor interactions meet a high standard of quality and entertainment, while considering and addressing the perspectives of multiculturalism, including but not limited to Indigenous, Chinese, and Black heritage in line with the BC and Canadian Multiculturalism Acts.
- Assist in the preparation and execution of the Chinese Mid-Autumn Moon Festival event.
- Duties include rehearsals, memorization of content, collaboration with other performers as part of an ensemble, and direction from the manager or supervisor.

Additional tasks or responsibilities:

- Assist with the 60-minute 1860s family-friendly Variety Show at the Theatre Royal where possible.
- Assist the Barkerville Heritage Trust in liaising with visiting Chinese delegates and representatives when needed.
- Perform flexible and varying duties depending on the shifting needs of the organization. Contribute to daily tasks within the Presentation department when support is needed.
- Contribute to a positive morale by working with all site staff to ensure a supportive and enjoyable work environment.
- Work in a healthy and safe manner and follow all health and safety guidelines.
- Pivot activities to adapt to shifting circumstances related to the pandemic, including engagement with visitors through live virtual broadcasts.

The Position requires that the following laws, regulations, policies, and procedures be adhered to:

- The Workers Compensation Board regulations.
- The Barkerville Heritage Trust Safety Management and Accident Prevention Program.
- The Barkerville Heritage Trust's policies and procedures.
- Adherence to the Job Performance Expectations of the position.

- Barkerville's Personal Presentation Standards.
- Performs all operational duties based upon industry standards and guided by the occupational health and safety regulations.

Qualifications, Skills, and Abilities (requirements needed to perform the job):

- University degree in Theatre, Music, History and/or Education, or similar program.
- Energetic and engaging presence.
- Excellent performance ability and vocal projection.
- Ability to take direction during the rehearsal process.
- Passionate and proactive approach to historical interpretation and historical research.
- Demonstrated development of cultural awareness, diversity, and inclusion skills.
- High level communication skills and a proven commitment to customer service.
- Ability to work under own initiative with minimal supervision, as well as a member of a team.
- Experience with stage craft and a background in music would be an asset.
- Extensive understanding of the history of Barkerville and the Cariboo Gold Rush, and British Columbia's history, particularly in relation to Chinese Canadian history, would be an asset.
- Prior experience performing programs related to the job description would be an asset.
- Five or more years of experience in the tourism industry would be an asset.
- Five or more years of experience in historical interpretation or related performance experience would be an asset.
- Fluency in spoken and written Mandarin or Cantonese would be an asset.

Working conditions: (physical environment of the job, including on and off site):

- Dress completely in historically authentic clothing provided by the Barkerville Heritage Trust and maintain the historical authenticity of the character whenever in costumed view of the public.
- Working indoors and outdoors, sharing workspace with other workers.
- Wearing appropriate personal protective equipment as required.
- Walking on uneven surfaces, climbing stairs and ladders, bending, and lifting, and exposure to the elements.
- Successful candidates must be available to work for the duration of the season stated above.

For more information or to apply, contact Stewart Cawood, Manager of Public Programming & Media, Barkerville Historic Town & Park at stewart.cawood@barkerville.ca or 1.888.994.3332 ex. 41.