

BARKERVILLE

— HISTORIC TOWN & PARK —

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

Job Description: Historical Interpreter - Chinatown

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title: Historical Interpreter - Chinatown

Classification: Presentation 1

Position: Full-time, Seasonal

Duration: 35 hours per week, June 2 – September 1, 2025

Closing Date: Friday, March 21, 2025, or until it is filled.

Salary: \$26.71 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 lives of the Chinese people who lived here, where they came from, and their stories during the development of Barkerville, the Cariboo Goldfields, and British Columbia.

Status:

- BC Government Employees Union (BCGEU)

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

- The position receives training, guidance, general direction and reports to the Manager of Public Programming & Media and their designated representatives, including the Artistic Producer and the Cultural Coordinator.
- Position works within the Presentation Department, under the leadership of the Manager of Public Programming & Media and their designated representatives, including the Artistic Producer and the Cultural Coordinator.
- Performs all operational duties based upon museum/heritage 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 duties with a heritage conservation focus to ensure the continued protection and conservation of Barkerville Historic Town & Park.

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

- Research the life and occupation and convincingly portray and maintain the authenticity of an historic or composite character assigned by the Department Manager during the interpretive history of 1865 - 1900 through the working day's theatrical, performing, and hosting activities, and maintain an energetic, positive personae with visitors providing high quality and consistent demonstrations of late-19th to early-20th century, etiquette, speech, mannerisms, occupations, and general behaviour.
- Perform memorized entry-level presentations according to the performance schedule provided by the Department Manager and ensure that these performances 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.
- 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 according to the standards and daily performance schedule provided by the Department Manager and ensure that these performances meet a high standard of quality and entertainment.
- Undergo archival research focussing on the general history of Barkerville, the Cariboo region, and British Columbia. Solicit feedback from the Curator to ensure that heritage values and historical authenticity are upheld in the Presentation Department's performances and programming and seek out advice on the proper treatment of artefacts, historic buildings, and heritage landscapes from the Curator prior to proceeding with any work that may affect these assets.

Additional tasks or responsibilities:

- Assist with the Theatre Royal Variety Show where possible.
- Perform flexible and varying duties depending on the shifting needs of Barkerville. Contribute to daily tasks within the Presentation Department when support is needed and participate in cross-departmental project planning.
- Assist the cultural coordinator with preparations for the Mid-Autumn Festival.
- Assist the Barkerville Heritage Trust with hosting visiting Chinese delegates and representatives when needed.

- Contribute to a positive morale and work with all site staff to ensure a supportive and enjoyable work environment, and work in a healthy and safe manner and follow all health and safety guidelines.
- Assist the overall organization and cleanliness of interpretive spaces.
- Pivot activities to adapt to shifting circumstances, including weather related programming shifts, understudying, and 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 museum/heritage industry standards and guided by the occupation health and safety regulations.

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

- Post-secondary training in performance. University degree is an asset.
- Energetic and engaging stage presence.
- Excellent musical performance ability with both musical instruments and singing is an asset.
- Excellent vocal projection.
- Experience with stage craft is an asset.
- Prior experience performing programs related to the job description is an asset.
- Ability to take direction during the rehearsal process.
- Extensive understanding of the history of Barkerville and the Cariboo Gold Rush, with a willingness to continue to learn and adapt, is an asset.
- Passionate and proactive approach to historical interpretation and historical research.
- One or more years of experience in the tourism industry is an asset.
- One or more years of experience in historical interpretation is an asset.
- 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.
- Basic computer skills, including website sign in procedures, email operation, and use of Word and Excel.
- Ability to lift 25-50 pounds.
- Ability to walk at least 5 kilometres in a day on uneven surfaces and climb stairs and ladders.
- Fluency in spoken and written Mandarin or Cantonese would be an asset.
- Ability to improvise when engaging with the public and as needed during programming
- Ability to write scripted material when required is an asset

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

- Working indoors and outdoors, sharing workspace with other workers.
- Highly paced performance schedule.
- 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.
- Performing basic costume maintenance according to the instruction of the Costumer.

- Wearing appropriate personal protective equipment as required.
- Walking on uneven surfaces, climbing stairs and ladders, bending and lifting.
- Successful candidates must be available to work for the duration of the season.

For more information, contact Krista Bolton, Human Resources Manager, Barkerville Historic Town & Park at krista.bolton@barkerville.ca or 1.888.994.3332 ex. 21.