

Summer and Fall Internships available: Storefront Library Project in Boston's Chinatown

About the Project

The Chinatown Storefront Library (www.storefrontlibrary.org) is a project to transform one of Boston Chinatown's many currently vacant, commercial, street-level spaces into a temporary public library branch. Operating for approximately three months, the project consists of a program component and an architectural component (incorporating workspaces and seating). The project will create a memorable event for Chinatown, as well as provide a selection of urgently needed services for a community that has been without a library since 1956. Services will include: Internet access, newspapers, periodicals, and children's books for browsing. In addition, the Storefront Library will host readings, screenings, and community meetings, which will be visible to passersby on the street.

The Storefront Library is not intended to be a substitute for a permanent branch library. Its primary purpose is to demonstrate and test the potential impact of a permanent library in the neighborhood, building upon the conclusions of a Library Program and Siting study, commissioned for Chinatown by the City of Boston and completed in June 2008.

Boston Street Lab is the nonprofit producer of the Storefront Library's program. Program advisors include several senior staff members and librarians from the Boston Public Library, as well as a librarian from the Brooklyn Public Library in NY.

Internships

We currently have the following project-based internship opportunities for graduate students in the Simmons College GSLIS program who have completed 12 credits, including the completion of the reference, information organization and evaluations course:

> Program Development Interns (Summer 2009 - up to 3 positions)

Program Development Interns begin in June and continue through August. Interns commit to 8 hours per week (hours flexible) of unpaid work helping to develop the storefront library program. Each intern will be assigned a specific program area - such as computer/on-line services, children's materials, adult materials, and reference - and will be in charge of identifying and securing program materials, as well as helping to develop any policies or procedures, and other, related duties as assigned.

> Library Service Interns (Fall 2009 - 3-5 positions)

Library Service Interns begin in September coinciding with the opening of the Storefront Library to the public. Interns commit to 15 hours per week of unpaid work, helping to staff the Storefront Library for a period of three months during its hours of operation in the fall semester. Library Service Interns support the Storefront Librarian in maintaining and managing the Storefront Library space, providing assistance with computers, re-shelving reading materials, and providing other, general assistance as needed. Community volunteers may also be on hand to help out.

All interns will be supervised by Boston Street Lab, the nonprofit producer of the Storefront Library's program. Interns will have the opportunity to interface with Program Advisors in at least two meetings, as well as with the projects' community partners. Because the heaviest users of the Storefront Library are anticipated to be Chinese-language speakers, students who either speak a Chinese language, or who have a familiarity with Chinese-language materials, are desirable. However, such background is not required; the project's partners and advisors include librarians and members of Boston's Chinatown community who are Chinese-language speakers familiar with the community's needs. Through these partners and advisors, we plan to enlist community volunteers to provide additional support as needed.

If you are interested in applying, please send an email to Leslie Davol, Director, at leslie@bostonstreetlab.org, with the following documents (in Word or pdf format) attached: resume, cover letter, and list of three references. Applicants should use their cover letter to highlight any relevant experience.