

Seasonal Land Steward (SLS) – Paid Position

Kingston Land Trust, Land In Black Hands Program– Kingston, NY

The Kingston Land Trust (KLT) is seeking a **Seasonal Land Steward (SLS)** for the 2025 growing season. This role will support the ongoing caretaking, restoration, and stewardship of the newly protected Land in Black Hands land base—54 acres of ecologically rich forest, meadow, and a small farm in Kingston, NY.

We are looking for someone hands-on and community-oriented, who can lead land projects and take on general maintenance tasks. Equally important, we need someone who is outgoing and passionate to bring people to the land, engage with volunteers, and foster a welcoming environment.

About the Kingston Land Trust (KLT):

The KLT is a nonprofit organization that protects environmentally and socially significant land for the common good. The KLT exists to protect, steward, create access to and build community power on land in and around Kingston as a means of reestablishing mutual care between humans and the ecosystems that sustain us.

About Land in Black Hands (LIBH):

An autonomous program of the KLT, LIBH exists to empower Black communities through land access, fostering deep connections to nature, healing, and cultural identity. At our land base we are co-creating a space where individuals can reconnect with the land, cultivate sustainable practices, and nurture collective healing, while honoring the stories, ancestral traditions, and resilience of Black communities. By centering education, stewardship, and justice, we seek to build a regenerative future rooted in equity and harmony with the earth.

Key Responsibilities:

- Engage in community outreach and volunteer coordination to bring people to the land and connect them with stewardship activities and educational opportunities
- Lead and assist with land projects, including fencing installation, trail building, and habitat restoration
- Perform general maintenance: mowing, trimming, brush clearing, moving wood, general repairs, managing soil, removing debris, and protecting land from overgrazing
- Support farm operations, such planting, cultivating, and harvesting crops, maintaining farm equipment, and performing general maintenance duties, often working outdoors in all weather conditions and adhering to safety protocols on the farm

- Monitor land conditions, document changes through field notes, photography, and GPS tracking
- Support events, workshops, and volunteer workdays

Required Qualifications:

- Strong people skills, comfortable speaking with community members and volunteers
- Experience in landscaping, gardening, horticulture, and/or farming
- Self-motivated with a strong work ethic
- Basic plant identification skills
- Ability to lift 50 lbs. and work outside in varying weather conditions
- This position is labor intensive and the appropriate candidate should have the ability to operate pertinent land tools such as a chainsaw, a BCS tractor and/or brush hog, etc.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Knowledge of African history and the historical and ongoing impacts of systemic oppression, land dispossession, and theft of sovereignty for descendants of enslaved Africans in America
- Valid driver's license
- Basic woodworking, construction, or home maintenance skills
- Familiarity with Kingston, NY, its geography, and community

Location: The position will be on KLT-protected land in the City of Kingston and Town of Ulster. There will also be some minimal "office work" which can take place from home or at our office in Midtown/Uptown Kingston. The land steward should be based in or near Kingston, NY, for the duration of this seasonal position.

Duration and hours: 8 months (April / to December, 2025). 20 hours per week. Possibly additional work-trade hours for candidates interested in the housing opportunity.

Compensation: \$20-25 per hour, depending on experience

Deadline to Apply: We have extended the application deadline until April 1st, 2025.

How to apply:

- Send cover letter and resume to opportunities@kingstonlantrust.org
- Please label any submitted materials (cover letter, resume, and references) with your last name.
- We will ask for three professional references after the first or second round of interviews.
- Contact shaniquea@kingstonlandtrust.org with questions about the position or application process.

Equal Opportunity Employer

The Kingston Land Trust is an Equal Opportunity Employer that values diversity in all areas of its operations. KLT is committed to equal opportunity in employment and promotion for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, age, religion, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, citizenship, military or veteran status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, pregnancy and childbirth, family responsibilities, or any other basis protected by applicable laws, regulations, or guidelines relating to discrimination in employment.