

Kokua Services  
hummingbird studio and café  
History

In the native Hawaiian culture, “*kokua*” is a very important word and concept. Kokua is a way of relating to others that is characterized by kindness and a desire to be of help. Kokua Services has been supporting adults with developmental disabilities since 1990. Our name is reflective of our philosophy, namely that all persons should be acknowledged and respected regardless of their abilities.

Kokua Services is a DDA (Developmental Disabilities Administration) state contracted provider of residential services. Kokua currently supports 41 individuals in Thurston County, WA. In the Supported Living Program, Kokua’s direct service professional caregivers support individuals in their own homes to live as independently as possible by helping with things like personal care, scheduling medical appointments, recreation, transportation, cooking, and cleaning.

Kokua’s volunteer and internship program was launched in 2006. Originally, the goal of the program was to help individuals in the Supported Living Program make lasting friendships with other individuals from the community. Today, we have the additional goal of providing free programs that promote **community inclusion** for individuals with disabilities both in Kokua’s residential program and from the greater community.

One of our community programs, hummingbird studio, opened in September 2015 and is a free, inclusive community art space open to individuals of ALL abilities. We believe that art belongs to everyone and is essential to a healthy and vibrant community. We created a community art space where art is accessible to anyone who would like to participate. The studio was born in downtown Olympia, sharing space with Arbutus Folk School, and moved in January 2019 to Adams Street which is also downtown. In the new studio, we had a dedicated space with the ability to offer the program to more artists from the community. We were operating three sessions three days a week and were serving 100+ artists before we shut down in March 2020 due to COVID. We transitioned to zoom in May 2020 and built a diverse community of artists from all over the U.S. and Canada. We hope to reopen the studio in October in our former studio space.

In addition to the studio, we want to create hummingbird café, a social enterprise that is intended to be a sustainable funding stream for hummingbird studio art program and a job training site for individuals with disabilities. The focus of this internship will be research and planning for the creation of this new program.

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Internship Job Description  
Creating a Social Enterprise

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Interns will research and investigate social enterprise in theory and practice.
- Interns will choose an area of focus to research and help plan for the creation of hummingbird café. Areas of focus could be: creating a budget and/or a business plan, strategic planning, marketing and public relations, social media, fundraising and grant writing.
- Interns may also be asked to assist in the development of community alliances, partnerships, corporate sponsors, and other funders.
- Interns will send a weekly written update of their research and a final paper with their research and ideas at the end of the quarter.
- Interns will meet weekly with other interns, and their field and academic supervisors.
- Interns will meet one-on-one bi-weekly with their field supervisor.

Skills and Qualifications:

- Excellent verbal, written, and interpersonal skills
- Motivated and hard-working
- Detail oriented with strong organizational skills
- Excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Ability to pass a background/fingerprint check (for in-person program activities)
- Proof of vaccination (for in-person program activities)

We invite all prospective interns to look at our website ([www.hummingbirdstudio.org](http://www.hummingbirdstudio.org)) and social media (<https://www.facebook.com/kokuahummingbirdstudio> <https://www.instagram.com/studio.hummingbird/>) and to visit the studio (either in person or on zoom) to get a better understanding of the program, our values, and the benefits to the community.