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Strategic Storyteller

The Louisiana Center for Children's Rights (LCCR) is looking for a Strategic Storyteller to uplift the stories of Louisiana's most vulnerable children. The Strategic Storyteller is tasked with countering poor narratives around Black youth by strategically telling our clients' and community's stories. This position will report directly to the Executive Director, working adjacent to LCCR's Policy, Advocacy & Communications team and closely with the Youth Justice Advocates Coalition.¹ Through storytelling and campaign creation, the Strategic Storyteller will shift the narrative around Black children; using real stories to educate, inspire, and mobilize our community and partners to advance LCCR's advocacy priorities, and build collective imagination and power to transform the juvenile legal system in the state of Louisiana.

The Community You Will Join

The Louisiana Center for Children's Rights (LCCR) is a non-profit law office that fights to keep children out of the legal system so they can thrive in their homes and communities. We both represent individual children in their court cases and address the systemic issues that trap mainly poor, Black youth in the legal system.

Juvenile Defense: As the juvenile public defender in New Orleans, our Children's Defense Team represents over 90% of children in the city who come into contact with the juvenile legal system. We provide each child with a holistic team – a lawyer, social worker, investigator, and youth advocate – to address both the causes and consequences of an arrest. We also partner with East Baton Rouge Public Defenders Office to provide social workers and youth advocates to support their office's holistic defense of children.

Juvenile Life Without Parole: We represent the majority of Louisianans who are facing or serving life without parole sentences for crimes they committed as children, which the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled unconstitutional in all but the rarest cases. We know that children can and do change for the better, so we fight for their second chance.

State and Local Advocacy: We advocate for policies that reduce the number of children in the legal system and provide better alternatives to arrest and incarceration. For the kids who do enter the system, we support policies that keep them safe, protect their rights, and get them home as soon as possible.

¹ The Youth Justice Advocates are an inter-generational group of organizations and community members who work to uplift the voices of young people in New Orleans' schools, communities, and juvenile legal system. YJA works to shape and drive policies that end the over-criminalization of Black youth and prioritize healing over punishment. LCCR is a founding organization and member of YJA's Steering Committee.

The Difference You Will Make

At this moment, all across the nation, portrayals of Black youth are pointing back to the “super-predator” rhetoric of the 90s, driving tough on crime policies that not only harm children, but make our communities less safe. Using diverse approaches—including traditional media, social media, advertising outlets, film, and other art mediums—the Strategic Storyteller will use storytelling to engage community members, stakeholders and policymakers, build awareness, and create a shared vision for youth justice. The Strategic Storyteller will inspire action by the desired actors, and achieve strategic outcomes informed by LCCR’s Policy Manager in collaboration with the Youth Justice Advocates by countering prevailing narratives and creating new narratives.

The role requires the use of creative and media arts to critically examine the experiences of young people in Louisiana. Through the lens of racism and its intersection with poverty and generational trauma, the Strategic Storyteller will use innovative storytelling to influence state and local policy. Understanding the unique cultural norms of Louisiana and grounding those principles in everyday work through participant and community engagement are required job skills and core values.

Your Expertise

Minimum of three years of relevant work experience required. Lived experience in criminal justice with a focus on youth and their families preferred. Visioning, developing, and leading creative campaigns, background in creative or media arts, and organizing/advocacy experience highly preferred. Great oral and written communication skills, with the ability to work within a diverse range of LCCR constituents, including staff, clients and their families, and community partners is required. Creativity, detail oriented, strong multi-tasking skills, event planning, and ability to work both as part of a team and independently is valued. Travel for meetings and events throughout Louisiana is required.

How We’ll Take Care of You

The Strategic Storyteller salary ranges from \$60,000 to \$75,000. LCCR offers employee benefits that include unlimited paid time off, six weeks paid parental leave, 100% covered health, dental and vision insurance for employee and spouse or children, as well as retirement plan.

This position is a hybrid of in-person and remote work, and is full-time. No other compensated work is permitted.

To Apply

Please provide a resume, three professional references, and a cover letter explaining your interest in the position and how your life intersects with Black youth and people who are incarcerated to jobs@lakidsrights.org. In subject line of the email, please write “Strategic Storyteller.” Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and the position will remain open until filled.

LCCR values diversity and is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. People of color, women, LGBT persons, people with disabilities, and those directly impacted by the legal system are encouraged to apply for all positions.