



Title: African Diaspora Partnerships Manager

Location: Remote

Position: Full Time, Exempt

Team: Program

Reports to: Regional Director, Africa

Position Summary:

Thousand Currents seeks an African Diaspora Partnerships Manager who knows that Africans around the globe are the only ones that can transform African communities and understands that the concept of “international aid” and “development” must be eliminated. The African Diaspora Partnerships Manager is creative, resourceful, and a self-driven organizer who enjoys building connections and relationships with people - be it over a dinner, a conference, a community center, or a side meeting at a multilateral convening. This person understands that one of Africa’s most important resources are its people and will work actively to connect Africans in the diaspora with Africans on the continent that are building transformative solutions on food, climate, and economy.

The African Diaspora Partnerships Manager is responsible for integrating Africans In the Diaspora (AiD) into the Thousand Currents’ Africa program* and engaging the African diaspora to learn more about Thousand Currents’ Africa program, partners and alliances. They will develop the program’s African diaspora outreach plan, coordinate with the philanthropic partnerships and communications teams to mobilize support, tell new stories, and conceptualize and implement activities focused on building an African diaspora philanthropic community that would support the work of Thousand Currents’ Africa program partners.

****Note: Africans in the Diaspora and Thousand Currents [merged in 2017](#), making Thousand Currents the first U.S.-based funder to rearrange its structure to include diaspora engagement. Africans in the Diaspora is now held within the Africa program at Thousand Currents.***

Essential Functions:

1. Design and lead African diaspora community engagement activities. (approximately 50% of time)

Under the supervision of the Regional Director, Africa and in close coordination with the Philanthropic Partnerships team and the Communications team, the African Diaspora Partnerships Manager will design and lead activities, including but not limited to:

- Create and implement community engagement programs and activities to inform and engage diaspora communities on the issues that Africa program partners address in their work;
- Create and implement the AiD community engagement strategy with an initial focus on the African diaspora in the U.S., with possibility for expansion to partnerships with the African diaspora outside of the U.S.;
- Strengthen and grow the Ambassador program and Diaspora Dinners initiative, existing online connections and outreach programs, and create new outreach opportunities with an initial focus on the African diaspora in the U.S., with possibility for expansion to partnerships with the diaspora outside of the U.S.;
- Build innovative partnerships and strategic alliances and networks with African diaspora community groups, including student groups, community organizations, philanthropic institutions, and individual donors in the U.S. and outside of the U.S. to facilitate relationship and alliance-building between those in the AiD network and the Thousand Currents Africa program; and
- Create and implement work plans, including budget development and monitoring, and recruitment and management of volunteer and consultant support where required;

2. Design and lead communications activities that will challenge existing development paradigms for Africa, center Africans in the Diaspora and on the Continent as the protagonists of social and economic transformation on the Continent, and engage diaspora communities about the roles they play in solidarity with movements on the Continent. (Approximately 20% of time)

In close partnerships with the Communications team, the African Diaspora Partnerships Manager plans, designs and implements all communications work. Activities will include:

- In collaboration with the Communications team, create an AiD communications strategy that is creative, engaging, and innovative with a focus on growing our online presence and influencing african diaspora philanthropic giving;
- Amplify AiDs diaspora donor engagement practices through cultural production, research and development of papers, presentation materials and articles, including in online communications, and by participating, presenting, and attending conferences and meetings;

- Contribute to Thousand Currents communications efforts by writing, editing and contributing to think pieces and blogs that amplify African leadership in Africa's transformation;
- Lead the creation and maintenance of active, engaging, and creative social media presence; and
- Work with the Communications team to maintain and enhance the AiD web presence and coordinate content with the Thousand Currents website.

3. Contribute to program-specific and organization-wide philanthropic advocacy and resource mobilization activities to channel more resources from diaspora Africans to the Thousand Currents Africa program and partners. (Approximately 20% of time)

In close partnerships with the Philanthropic Partnerships team, the African Diaspora Partnerships Manager plans, designs and implements all diaspora donor advocacy and contributes to resource mobilization. Activities will include:

- Support the Thousand Currents Africa program by contributing content and input for proposals and reports, and nurturing relationships with new and existing institutional donors, particularly those with an interest in diaspora work;
- Support Thousand Currents' fundraising and donor organizing work by designing parallel diaspora resource mobilization activities and plans;
- Build and maintain a solidarity network of US and international contacts for information sharing and alliance-building and to increase and promote African diaspora donor visibility and impact in the philanthropic sector;
- Establish AiD as a cross-program resource at Thousand Currents, infusing the African diaspora perspective into learning exchanges, donor organizing, the Thousand Currents Academy, the special investments fund, and all other education programs;
- Identify and collaborate with allies who also are also building mission aligned diaspora philanthropy communities

4. Participate in organization-wide learning, cross-program partnership and administrative efficiency. (Approximately 10% of time)

- Along with all other staff, this position contributes to Thousand Currents' culture of experimentation, teamwork and continuous learning and does what it takes to ensure that Thousand Currents staff collaborate and support each other within and across programs and excel in an environment where every member takes care of their own basic administrative needs. This includes but is not limited to:
- Showing up fully for learning and planning activities, including staff meetings, retreats, trainings, planning and strategy sessions.

- Pitching in when needed for organization-wide activities, such as the Thousand Currents Academy, annual events, fundraising drives, partner visits, etc.
- Supervising and project management of relevant volunteers and interns, and ensuring that they have a positive learning experience at Thousand Currents.
- Managing your own regular administration, including timely submission of receipts, reimbursement requests, scheduling, travel planning, filing HR paperwork etc.

Note: Thousand Currents is committed to responding flexibly to changing circumstances and priorities which means that the expectations of every position are dynamic. This description reflects the assignment of essential functions, but does not prescribe or restrict the tasks that may be assigned.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES: Impeccable people skills and ability to build and maintain relationships; creative, open to experimentation, and able to adapt to changing circumstances; experience and clarity working around issues of power, privilege, class and wealth; cultural competence; strong verbal and written communication skills; strategic thinker and rigorous executer with strong attention to detail; strong oral and written presentation skills; strong judgment and discretion in dealing with sensitive information; excellent organization skills; computer skills – MAC environment, MS office, Salesforce; website content management and social media savvy; comfortable and confident working independently and remotely as well as part of a team in a collaborative environment.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: Bachelor's Degree or equivalent experience in a relevant field; Minimum 5 years' of experience in African diaspora outreach and engagement, resource mobilization, communications work and/or other relevant work; Comfortable with content management systems and social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and MailChimp; Experience in two or more of these fields: philanthropy, social justice work, non-profit management, cultural production; direct work and/or life experience in Africa or the African diaspora.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: The physical demands of this position are light with the expectation that the staff person can exert up to 20 lbs. of force occasionally, and/or up to 10 lbs. of force frequently, and/or a negligible amount of force constantly to move objects. Light work usually requires walking or standing to a significant degree. Physical demands are in excess of those of sedentary work. The position requires frequent computer use at a workstation. As Thousand Currents staff work in a number of locations and come together for meetings on occasion all staff must be able to travel by car and plane to meetings at locations nationally and internationally. Availability to travel and maintenance of a valid passport is required. National or international travel represents approximately 20%-25% of the time for this position. Thousand Currents will make reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This job description and its physical requirements will be reviewed periodically as duties and responsibilities change with business necessity. Essential and marginal job functions are subject to modification.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Thousand Currents is an equal opportunity employer. We strongly encourage and seek applications from women, people of color, and bilingual and bicultural individuals, as well as members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. Applicants shall not be discriminated against because of race, religion, sex, national origin, ethnicity, age, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, marital status, or medical condition including acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and AIDS-related conditions.

SALARY RANGE: \$60,000-\$65,000 USD

HOW TO APPLY:

Please submit a cover letter, maximum of one page, a resume and answers to the questions below to jobs@thousandcurrents.org with "African Diaspora Partnerships Manager Application".

- a) What role(s) do you see African diaspora philanthropy playing? (500 word maximum)
- b) Describe your experience(s) engaging with the African diaspora community. (500 word maximum)

Applications will be taken on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Due to the volume of applications we will only contact applicants that have been moved to interview rounds.