



## About Us

HYPOTHEkids is a 501c3 nonprofit based in West Harlem that provides STEAM education and internship opportunities to low-income K-12 NYC students with backgrounds that are underrepresented in the STEAM field. We strive to cultivate a STEAM identity in students at a young age so that they can envision themselves as scientists and engineers while preparing for secure jobs with growth potential in the city's expanding life science sector.

## Job Description

### Elementary STEAM Curriculum Specialist

HYPOTHEkids is seeking a consulting Curriculum Specialist to improve our elementary hands-on science curriculum and align it with national and state standards. Qualifications include the following:

- Experience in K-5 STEAM education and curriculum development.
- Expertise in alignment of curricula with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
- Expertise in state (NY & NJ) education standards, current education pedagogy, and market trends.
- The ability and willingness to take initiative and approach the project with confidence, decisiveness, and minimal supervision.

## Curriculum Background

Elementary schools in underserved areas of NYC often can't afford curricula and materials that make science fun and engaging for students. As a result, many children miss out on the opportunity to develop a sense of wonder about the natural world and the belief that science offers an exciting academic and career path that they can choose to pursue in their future endeavors. We designed an elementary hands-on science program that addresses this



challenge by making STEAM affordable and exciting. Through the program, we seek to spark an interest in STEAM in as many K-5 students as possible.

Our hands-on-science lessons ensure that elementary schoolers can participate in STEAM in informal settings, such as in afterschool programs and at libraries. They are made up of:

- a set of curricula in five thematically connected units of 14 lessons each
- teaching and teacher training methodologies
- pre-prepared materials (HYPOTHEkits) packed in easy-to-use classroom sets

The HYPOTHEkits were developed for implementation by facilitators who are not necessarily STEAM specialists or certified teachers in order to reach as wide of an audience as possible.

They contain everything that the facilitator needs to teach the lessons:

1. step-by-step teacher guides
2. an explanatory slideshow with multimedia content for students
3. the supplies needed to complete the hands-on activities (e.g., the balloon, CD, and model magic needed to create a balloon hovercraft).

### **Why Improve the Curriculum?**

While HYPOTHEkids has helped thousands of students get the skills they need for future academic and economic success, there remains so much unmet demand for our programming. We regularly receive requests from elementary afterschool partners in low-income areas of the city for our hands-on science lessons, but we have found it challenging to fulfill these requests due to staffing limitations. Additionally, we have recently received new requests for science programming that can be incorporated into the school day

If we made the curriculum easier for a general audience (e.g., not STEAM teachers) to implement on their own, such that sending our own staff to teach or train on-site is unnecessary, we could reach exponentially more afterschool/summer programs. Additionally, having a curriculum aligned with national standards allows for in-school programming.