

## **COMPETENCY MODEL FOR ZOO CURATOR OF EDUCATION (4300)**

The following competencies have been identified as those that best separate superior from satisfactory job performance in the class of **ZOO CURATOR OF EDUCATION**. (Numbers refers to the order of the competencies in the Competency Bank.)

### 3. Judgment and Decision Making

11. Initiative

20. Job Knowledge

33. Interpersonal Skills

37. Flexibility

48. Shares Knowledge and Information

53. Leadership

54. Champions Change

55. Community Relations

On the following pages are descriptions of each competency, including a definition, the level of the competency required for the class (*italicized, bolded, and underlined*), examples of behavioral indicators, and satisfactory and superior performance levels.

**3. JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING** – Accurately assesses situations, seeks new information if necessary, and applies all available information to reach sound conclusions/formulate effective response.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Training and guidelines needed to respond to immediate situations within a very specific function are provided (or supervisor available to assist).
- Level 2: **General information and guidance to assist in responding to a variety of situations across a range of circumstances are provided.**
- Level 3: Little guidance available for responding to a wide range of complex situations with far-reaching and/or enduring consequences.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Effectively responds to atypical situations.
- Asks questions or otherwise obtains additional relevant information to make a decision.
- Formulates a decision and necessary actions based on available facts.
- Correctly infers appropriate response based on information provided and existing policies, personal experience, and/or consultation with others.
- Discusses conclusions/possible responses with others before taking action as necessary.
- Considers impact of decisions on all affected parties.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Correctly assesses routine and unusual situations and reaches appropriate conclusions for actions needed. Obtains additional information and/or consults with others as necessary.

Superior

Evaluates new situations accurately to establish an appropriate response or plan of action. Recognizes the impact on all affected parties, as well as the possible ramifications and/or repercussions of setting a precedent.

**11. INITIATIVE** – Generates activity that facilitates accomplishment of work.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Offer to help co-workers and/or recognize things to do that facilitate work group accomplishment.
- Level 2: **Identify new tasks/projects to be undertaken and assist others with accomplishment of their work.**
- Level 3: Determine additional work necessary to improve the function and productivity of the organization or its services to citizens or other customers.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Makes suggestions for improvement in work quality or quantity.
- Finds work to do when own work is slow rather than allow diminished personal productivity.
- Expands scope of work/responsibility in appropriate directions.
- Anticipates upcoming events in order to prepare for them.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Generates goal directed activity rather than waiting to be told what to do. Anticipates what is likely to occur in order to be able to prepare; recognizes that preparation for (and clean-up after) a job is part of doing the job.

Superior

Actively pursues additional tasks/responsibilities that will facilitate effectiveness. Makes extensive preparations for upcoming events or expected changes.

**20. JOB KNOWLEDGE** – Knows information required to perform a specific job. Includes both widely available courses of study (for example, chemistry, human resources management, graphic arts) and City-specific information (parking regulation and ticketing practices; purchasing procedures; provisions of the City Charter).

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: **Knowledge is concrete, factual, and/or procedural and may be defined by the organization. Situations in which it is applied are quite consistent.**
- Level 2: Knowledge is substantive and may be defined by an external trade, field, or profession. Situations in which it is applied vary and, as such, require breadth and depth of understanding.
- Level 3: Knowledge is abstract, conceptual, and/or complex and may be supported by a well-defined academic discipline or authoritative sources (e.g., laws, ordinances, government guidelines/regulations/codes). Situations in which it is applied may vary greatly or be novel.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Performs work correctly/avoids technical (job content related) errors.
- Answers technical questions about work accurately.
- Asks few technical questions about the performance of routine work activities.
- Offers advice (“coaching”) to new employees regarding their work.
- Develops training programs for other employees.
- Sought out as a source of information by others.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Sufficient job knowledge to perform work correctly independently. Answers technical questions about work correctly.

Superior

Expertise in technical job information sufficient to serve as a resource to others. May develop training manuals/ programs and/or give internal and/or external presentations related to work.

## **Job Knowledge Areas**

1. Knowledge of current principles and practices in interpretation or effective conservation education program design and the ability to demonstrate these principles in all community engagement programs sufficient to meet the needs of the various communities.

### 33. INTERPERSONAL SKILLS – Interacts effectively and courteously with others.

#### Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Interact with members of the workgroup, supervision, and/or the public in a cordial, service-oriented manner.
- Level 2: **Interact across department lines and with appointed City officials, and/or members of the public, at times under adversarial circumstances, in a cordial, respectful manner.**
- Level 3: Interact with appointed and elected City officials, department heads, representatives of external organizations, and/or the media in a cordial, effective manner.

#### Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Works well with others toward mutual objectives.
- Does not arouse hostility in others.
- “Disagrees without being disagreeable.”
- Elicits acceptance/cooperation from others.
- Affords all individuals respect, regardless of their role or status.
- Effectively addresses concerns of politicians or others who may have their “own agenda.”

#### Performance Levels:

##### Satisfactory

Behaves in a courteous, respectful, cooperative manner toward co-workers, other City employees, and members of the public.

##### Superior

Facilitates positive interpersonal relations within/among workgroups and toward members of the public. Adept at finding similarities and grounds for cooperation/mutual benefit.

**37. FLEXIBILITY** – Changes behavior to more effectively respond to differences or changes in situations, circumstances, objectives or people.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Modify behavior as necessary to accommodate differences/changes.
- Level 2: Initiate changed behavior when the initial approach proves ineffective.
- Level 3: **Perceive subtle cues/feedback to determine modifications in behavior necessary to improve effectiveness.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Adjusts speaking in terms of volume (softer/louder) and/or manner (for example, explanatory vs. directive).
- Offers a different option when the first is rejected.
- Completes work in a nonroutine manner when usual approach is inefficient or ineffective.
- Readily accepts changes in work assignments.
- Willingly works with any others as assigned or required by job duties.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Changes approach or objective when directed to do so. Recognizes failure of initial approach to achieve objective and tries a different one.

Superior

Identifies opportunities to improve performance by changing the goal or personal behavior to reach the goal. Supports changes imposed by others.

**48. SHARES KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION** – Conveys all information relevant to each involved party in a thorough and timely manner.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Provide job-related information as it becomes available to others who are likely to need it or to whom it might be helpful.
- Level 2: **Keep all involved parties informed of work/project progress and other new information. Tailors content, level of detail, and timing of information provided to the perspective of each recipient**
- Level 3: Recognize different needs for different information and provide all affected parties with a description of the “big picture” as well as the breadth and detail of information relevant to their perspective.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Provides thorough explanations with all relevant details.
- Uses multiple means of communicating (e.g., e-mail, telephone, meetings).
- Provides status reports of work/project progress to all involved parties.
- Informs others of changes at the earliest feasible time.
- Uses multiple addressees and “copies” others so all parties see exactly the same information and know who already has been informed.
- Draws from job knowledge and work experience to provide thorough descriptions and explanations.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Readily communicates new, job-related information to all employees to whom it is relevant. Provides a level of detail and explanation appropriate to the recipient.

Superior

Ensures that all involved parties are provided the maximum amount of information feasible in as timely a manner as possible to facilitate work/project status. Shares job



### 53. LEADERSHIP – Influences others toward goal accomplishment.

#### Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Assume responsibility for operations or a situation when necessary. Direct the actions of others or otherwise ensure required actions are taken. Remain responsible until relieved or situation is resolved.
- Level 2: **Motivate others to continual activity focused on goal accomplishment. Provide clear objectives and articulate individual activities necessary to achieve them; ensure resources necessary to do so are available. Monitor work progress and provide feedback; assess results.**
- Level 3: Articulate a vision, convey it to others, and assign responsibilities (or assure they are assigned) for achieving it. Monitor progress, make adjustments as necessary, and evaluate results.

#### Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Evaluates circumstances, determining what needs to be done, and ensuring individual responsibility for performing specific actions is assigned.
- Follow-ups to ensure that specific actions have been taken and overall objective has been accomplished.
- Clearly communicates objectives and responsibility/individual actions necessary to achieve them.
- Monitors work in progress, provides feedback to those involved, and makes adjustments to work plans/processes to ensure goal attainment.
- Evaluates completed work for quality, thoroughness, and effectiveness to determine whether re-work or additional work is required to meet intended objectives and to provide learning for future assignments

#### Performance Levels:

##### Satisfactory

Assumes responsibility for the work of others when required or necessary. Ensures actions taken to achieve objectives, and evaluates results to determine any follow-up needed.

##### Superior

Articulates vision/states clear objectives and assigns responsibility/motivates others toward achievement. Monitors progress; gives feedback; evaluates results; ensures follow-up.

**54. CHAMPIONS CHANGE** – Encourages others to identify means of improving existing processes and provides support for required changes.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Listen to and consider suggestions of co-workers for improving efficiency; accepts and uses suggestions when appropriate. Support imposed changes, and encourages others to do so.
- Level 2: **Solicit ideas for improvement, evaluate them, and implement those with merit. Gain support for changes by describing their benefits to all involved parties.**
- Level 3: Establish continuous improvement as a job requirement of staff. Assist in securing necessary resources to make changes. Foster an environment of calculated risk taking without fear of failure to encourage radical change.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Acknowledges and carefully considers all suggestions for improvement.
- For changes that appear promising, determines how to implement (or approves implementation).
- Encourages others to suggest changes/accept changes.
- Secures resources necessary to implement change; conducts cost-benefit analysis when possible to demonstrate return on investment.
- Presents plans for change with enthusiasm and detailed explanation as a means of promoting staff acceptance.
- Rewards staff for suggesting/implementing change that proves effective.
- Ensures there are no punitive consequences for failure of proposed changes that appeared promising and were approved.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Recognizes that vigilance with respect to identifying possible opportunities for improvement is expected of self and others. Freely makes suggestions and accepts imposed changes, and encourages others to do so.

Superior

Challenges self and others to think creatively and to identify novel approaches that have improvement potential. Persuades others to accept suggestions and enthusiastically embrace their implementation. Does

**55. COMMUNITY RELATIONS** – Communicates/Interacts with members of the public in a way that elicits positive response and participation.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Interact with members of the public, usually one-on-one, to meet their immediate need.
- Level 2: **Interact with several to many members of the public at a time to present information, persuade, solicit input, and/or one-on-one in varied situations, some of which may be likely to arouse hostility.**
- Level 3: Interact with large segments of the community and/or community leaders in varied situations, some of which involve addressing sensitive issues or in which hostility may arise.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Speaks in a manner clearly understood by community members.
- Listens actively to what community representatives say and conveys understanding.
- Responds fully and accurately to questions raised.
- Effectively addresses the issues/resolves the situation at hand.
- Achieves the desired objective of the interaction.
- Obtains participation from community members.
- Elicits a favorable reaction from members of the community.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Listens carefully to concerns and responds to all of them. Speaks in a manner appropriate to the audience. Maintains pleasant/positive demeanor.

Superior

Conveys information fully and responds thoroughly to all concerns. Draws community members into the interaction if needed. Receives a positive response from members of the community.