

THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES



CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

CLASS SPECIFICATION**04-05-23****ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVER, 0847**

Summary of Duties: An Astronomical Observer operates, coordinates, and maintains all Observatory astronomical instruments (telescopes, coelostat, and related apparatus) and all astronomical photographic and video equipment, helps communicate information on astronomical observations and techniques to the public, supervises part-time telescope demonstrators, and does related work.

Class Characteristics: An employee of this class engages in extensive technical work with astronomical telescopes, instruments, and other observing and optical equipment. An Astronomical Observer must be able as well to explain the use of such equipment and related techniques to other staff, the public, and the media, verbally and in writing, in a clear, concise, courteous, and easily understood manner. An Astronomical Observer supervises and trains part-time telescope demonstrators. General supervision is received from the Curator of Griffith Observatory. Some of the work is performed at night, overnight, and on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

Examples of Duties:

- Operates and maintains the Observatory's historic and specialized Zeiss refracting telescope, coelostat, and portable telescopes;
- Operates and maintains auxiliary astronomical instruments, including filters, astronomical cameras, photometers, other specialized devices and instrumentation, and disabled access stations for the Zeiss telescope and coelostat;
- Develops and implements schedules for regular and specialized maintenance of and improvements to, all telescopes, domes, and related instrumentation;
- Recruits, trains, and supervises part-time telescope demonstrators to conduct public telescope viewing;
- Operates digital photo and video equipment for astronomical photography and videography, including recording, streaming, and playback;
- Develops special optical techniques for the telescopes, including precision pointing, exposure standards, photographic and video procedures, bending frames, photographic jigs, and animation stands, and interfaces with Observatory exhibits;
- Provides astronomical information and developing sky charts, illustrations, and related materials for exhibits, news and social media, public, and the Observatory's monthly magazine;
- Responds to inquiries from the public and media on astronomical observing, sky events, and photographic techniques;
- Maintains the Observatory telescope log and observing records.

Minimum Requirements:

A bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university with a major in astronomy, physics, optical engineering, or a closely-related field and 2,000 hours of paid or volunteer experience in the design, maintenance, or operation of astronomical telescopes or optical instruments.

4,000 hours of additional paid or volunteer experience in the design, maintenance, or operation of astronomical telescopes or optical instruments may be substituted for each year to a maximum of two years of the required college/university training.

License: A valid California driver's license is required.

Physical Requirements: Strength to perform average lifting of less than five pounds and occasionally over 15 pounds; good hearing and speaking ability; and good eyesight.

Persons with disabilities may be able to perform the essential duties of this class with reasonable accommodation. Such accommodation will be evaluated on a case by case basis and depend, in part, on the specific requirements for the job, the limitations related to the disability, and the ability of the hiring department to reasonably accommodate the limitations.

As provided in Civil Service Commission Rule 2.5 and Section 4.55 of the Administrative Code, this specification is descriptive, explanatory, and not restrictive. It is not intended to declare what all of the duties and responsibilities of any position shall be.