



EVENTS & ECOSYSTEM MANAGER

GENERAL INFORMATION

Status:	Full-time	Reports to:	Senior Communications Manager
Compensation:	\$70,000 - \$85,000 Salary is commensurate with experience	Location:	Chicago, IL (Both in-person and virtual work required)
Role structure:	A member of Current's core team, reports to Current's Senior Communications Manager; works collaboratively across Current's team and with a range of external partners, including members of the six-state Great Lakes RENEW coalition.		
Benefits:	Health / vision / dental plans, unlimited PTO, parental leave, life insurance, retirement match (1:1 employer match up to 5% of salary), flexible work-from-home opportunities, and a dynamic and supportive work environment		

Applicants must be legally authorized to work in the U.S. without sponsorship. Please note that Current is not able to provide visa sponsorship.

Current provides equal employment opportunity as required by law to all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy (including childbirth and conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), age, marital status, physical or mental disability, veteran or military status, citizenship status, order of protection status, or any other protected classification. This policy applies in all aspects of employment, including without limitation recruitment, hiring, training, evaluation, promotion, demotion, discipline, compensation, benefits, and termination.

Application deadline: Tuesday, July 21, 2026

[APPLY HERE](#)

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Job Description:

The Events & Ecosystem Manager is responsible for designing and executing high-impact events and convenings, strengthening partner engagement, and supporting coalition-building efforts across Current's region of service. This role serves as a key connector between Current, its partners, and the broader ecosystem, leading event production and stakeholder engagement to ensure strong collaboration and operational excellence.

Key Responsibilities:

Event Leadership: The Events & Ecosystem Manager is responsible for producing and managing Current's events and ecosystem event engagement, including both virtual and in-person convenings.

- **Event Production:**
 - **Chicago Water Week:** Lead the production and execution of Chicago Water Week, Current's annual community-wide celebration of water.
 - Coordinate partners to host 40-50 events under the Chicago Water Week banner
 - Produce the Freshwater Forum: Current's flagship, in-person event during Chicago Water Week
 - **Other Event Production:** Manage all phases of event production for other recurring brand events, including Current's Third Coast Water Seminars (virtual), annual holiday party, summer celebration and other forums and convenings.
 - **New Event Leadership:** In partnership with Current staff and the Great Lakes RENEW coalition, develop ideas for new events in support of Current's strategic goals, and lead the team from planning to execution.
- **Management and Monitoring:** For all events, develop and track budgets, manage staffing, and balance resource efficiency with high-quality event experiences for attendees.
- **Communication:** Support event marketing and communications, including presentations, pre and post event content, digital and print materials, and other promotional assets.
- **Fundraising:** Contribute to fundraising efforts by securing corporate and philanthropic event sponsorships and ensuring all sponsor deliverables are fulfilled.
- **Event Calendar:** Build and maintain an event calendar and tracking system for events happening across the ecosystem, and distribute opportunities to staff and partners.
- **Ecosystem Events & Speaking Engagements:** Lead the identification, development, and submission of speaking and event opportunities, collaborating with staff to craft abstracts, proposals, and presentation concepts that elevate Current's visibility and thought leadership.
- **Evaluation:** Collaborate with the Strategy Director to conduct post-event evaluations and impact reports.

Ecosystem Engagement: The Events & Ecosystem Manager collaborates with Current staff to steward organizational partnerships.

- **Associate Board:** Develop and staff Current's Associate Board
- **Partner Onboarding:** Develop a new onboarding process to welcome new partners into Great Lakes RENEW
- **CRM:** Collaborate with the operations team to manage partners in Current's CRM
- **Meetings:** Support the scheduling and execution of key coalition meetings.

Executive and Staff Support: Support executive engagement at events by preparing briefs, coordinating materials, and attending events as part of the executive advance team, as needed.

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

What we're looking for...

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in event management, communications, nonprofit management, business administration, public affairs, marketing, or a related field.
- 3+ years of full-time (or equivalent) professional experience in event management, stakeholder engagement, partnership development, nonprofit operations, or a related field.
- Demonstrated experience planning and executing complex events involving multiple partners and stakeholders.
- Experience managing budgets, vendors, contracts, and event logistics.
- Strong project management skills with the ability to manage multiple priorities simultaneously and meet deadlines.
- Excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills.

- Experience building and maintaining relationships with external partners, sponsors, and community stakeholders.
- Proficiency with CRM platforms and contact database management.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Ability to work independently while thriving in a highly collaborative environment.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience working in the nonprofit, innovation, economic development, sustainability, water, climate, or technology sectors.
- Experience managing sponsorship programs or fundraising-related activities.
- Familiarity with Slack, Zoom, Google Workspace, Asana, or similar collaboration tools.
- Experience developing onboarding programs, operational processes, or organizational systems.
- Experience supporting executive leadership engagement and external relations activities.

Values and Attributes:

- **Passion for Current's mission and values** - You have a deep, shared commitment to the things we are passionate about: environmental stewardship; economic opportunity; technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
- **Positive and collaborative work ethic** - You have a drive to succeed for and with our team and partners and to lift up the people, organizations, and businesses that share our goals.
- **Network orientation** - You value relationships beyond one-off transactions and understand that in this long-term, system change work, effectiveness depends on the breadth and depth of our relationships.
- **Creative approaches to problem solving** - You know that the first idea isn't usually the best, and you know how to push yourself and your team to come up with new approaches.
- **Curious and learning oriented** - You want to understand your successes as well as your failures, and you're fueled by curiosity about the unknown. Everyone on our team is constantly asking questions about how the world works and how we can improve it. Comfort with ambiguity. You have a flexible and agile approach to big and small challenges and understand that progress is often nonlinear. You're willing to adapt and help Current adapt to be more resilient to our changing landscape.
- **Accountability and humility** - You're comfortable owning responsibility for a project's execution, but happy to share credit for the final team product. You are motivated by your team's opportunities and successes, and to support the whole team in tasks that contribute to individual and team goals.
- **Empathetic leadership** - You understand that our diverse partners across government, community, university, and industry face diverse challenges in their own work, and you listen to understand and build bridges.
- **Results orientation** - You find ways to track and measure what matters in your work, and in Current's work. You're rigorous about sharing those results with the team and when appropriate, our partners.

ABOUT CURRENT

[Click here to learn more](#) about who we are, our values, partner promises, and more.