

JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Curator of Contemporary and Modern Art
Reports to: Executive Director
Department: Curatorial
Position Type: Full-time, Salary, Exempt
Salary Range: \$50,000 - \$70,000 DOE
Benefits: Eligible

Summary of Position:

The Curator of Contemporary and Modern Art is a highly important position within the curatorial team. Made possible by the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Endowment, the position assists with the day-to-day functions of the Curatorial Department, while working to research and create exhibitions from our modern and contemporary art collection. This largely includes Northwest contemporary and modern art in all media, including painting, photography, studio glass, studio jewelry and ceramics. The Curator advances the museum's mission through the research and presentation of the permanent collection, and on the planning, development and presentation of international and national touring special exhibitions relating to contemporary and modern art, including occasional scholarly publications.

Core Responsibilities:

- Work collaboratively with the Executive Director and curatorial staff to determine goals of the exhibition, collection, and publication programs for the museum
- Conceptualize and develop contemporary and modern Northwest art exhibitions and publications
- Collaborate with the Education Department to develop audience engagement and interpretive strategies for exhibitions and the permanent collection
- Write exhibition texts and collection texts
- In collaboration with the rest of the Curatorial team, develop and manage budgets for exhibitions, publications, and special projects
- Develop content for exhibition-related social media tools
- In collaboration with the director and other curators, work with collectors, patrons, artists, and others to bring in gifts of related art for the permanent collection
- Participate in the museum's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) trainings and bring a DEIA lens to TAM's exhibitions and collections strategies, presenting diverse voices and faces in our contemporary art exhibitions
- Perform other tasks and duties as necessary

Absolutely Required Skills/ Knowledge/ Ability/ Experience or Education:

- Demonstrated knowledge of and passion for contemporary art and artists, including local and regional artists, and for exploring new directions in the fields of contemporary art and museums

- High degree of interpersonal skills: personable and diplomatic in working with diverse constituencies; able to effectively manage, motivate, and train curatorial and other staff
- Full working knowledge and proven track record of all aspects of exhibition organization and curation
- Exhibits an awareness and sensitivity to cultural and other differences when working with partner organizations, volunteers, museum staff, Board members, patrons, other stakeholders, and the general public
- High level of written and oral communication skills
- Flexibility and reliability to multi-task and meet deadlines in a demanding and fast-paced organization; strong ability to prioritize
- Experience and proven success in developing and overseeing budgets for multiple program areas
- Must be a self-starter, show attention to detail, and possess excellent organizational skills
- Computer proficiency and fluency with Microsoft Office programs and digital media
- Demonstrated commitment to supporting the museum's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA) framework by committing to promoting the diversification of artists and audiences for the museum's collection and programs
- Ability to work within and maintain the museum brand values: innovative, passionate, civic-minded, gracious, approachable

Desired Skills/ Knowledge/ Ability/ Experience or Education:

- Working knowledge of The Museum System and eMuseum online databases
- Master's degree in Art History, Museum Studies, or related field
- Established professional network of artists, collectors, gallerists and museum colleagues
- Working knowledge of Northwest art history and the contemporary regional art scene

Travel, Working Conditions, Physical Requirements and Environment include:

- Able to work at a workstation and/or a computer screen for the majority of the work day
- Frequently reaches and handles objects and operates tools, machinery, computers, and/or controls.
- Continuously exchanges information through listening and talking with staff, volunteers, individuals in the community and professional colleagues
- Domestic and international travel subject to budgeting

To Apply

Please email a succinct cover letter and resume to HR@TacomaArtMuseum.org.

- Include "Curator: First Name Last Name" in subject line.
- No phone inquiries, please.

RESUME REVIEW WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY. POSITION IS OPEN UNTIL FILLED.

Tacoma Art Museum is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Tacoma Art Museum strongly encourages applicants from members of groups underrepresented in careers related to museums and the visual arts.

About Tacoma Art Museum

Tacoma Art Museum is a public-spirited institution that champions a dynamic and complex approach to exhibitions. The museum's passionate staff are driven by the mission of connecting people through art, empowering visitors to create meaning with artworks through innovative interpretive and programming strategies. Named by USA Today as one of the "Top 10 Great Places to See Art in Smaller Cities," the museum has developed a reputation for presenting art in a thought-provoking yet accessible manner with a strong commitment to Northwest art.

Founded in 1935, TAM has strong roots in the community. Along with five other nearby museums and neighboring University of Washington at Tacoma, TAM anchors Tacoma's lively downtown core.

About Tacoma

Located in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, Tacoma is known as the City of Destiny, a city that has always marched to the beat of its own drum. Close enough to Seattle to take advantage of everything a major metropolis offers, Tacoma is its own distinctly unique and actively engaged community with a clear love of the arts.

Diverse individuals and families continue to invest in Tacoma for its charming historic neighborhoods, schools, parks, waterfront, and amenities. You'll find the beaches and forests of Puget Sound ideal to bike, run, hike, and paddle – including the nearby Mount Rainier. In addition to sports, theater and other cultural offerings, Tacoma is home to a growing restaurant and pub scene that's made national press. The thriving Tacoma Museum District lines the downtown core and showcases some of the nation's best collections. Tacoma is a great place to call home.