

Anchorage Museum Association

Title: Curator of Indigenous Art & Community Initiatives

Reports To: Chief Curator

FLSA Status: Exempt

EEO Class: Professionals

Approved by: Museum Director/CEO

Summary Position Statement

Under the general direction of the Chief Curator, the Curator of Indigenous Art & Initiatives will further the Museum's work with Alaska's living cultures, with an emphasis on Indigenous art, artists, climate change, national and international connections, and other initiatives. The Curator will have an emphasis on originality, rigor and a firm grasp of critical issues to present Indigenous art in a contemporary context. The Curator develops programming, strengths connections, and works on engagement and outreach. This position works as a member of an integrated team of curators, content providers, educators, and others.

This is a one- to three-year term position.

Essential Functions

- Work closely with Museum staff and a wide array of community partners, from local to outside the state
- Develop public programs and outreach
- Develop and organize special projects
- Develop collection-based educational and public programming
- Develop research and promote education with an emphasis on Indigeneity
- Contribute to Museum scholarship, publication and presentations
- Facilitate discussions with the the internal team about innovative reconciliation initiatives, cultural sensitivity and encourage new ways of working
- Present talks and lectures to share research and Museum initiatives with various communities and the public
- Participate in the development of the Museum collection in the area of contemporary Indigenous art
- Write texts for publications and online projects for a variety of audiences, documenting research processes and findings related to exhibitions and collections
- Liaise regularly with local Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and represent the Gallery at a variety of functions, such as, exhibition openings, talks and public events in the art community, you will also participate as requested on juries, panels and seminars
- Provide exhibition information, as requested, to Museum staff for planning and dissemination of public programs, special events, media releases, sponsorship proposals and other needs

- Liaise with other institutions regarding Indigenous exhibitions
- Respond to public requests for information and research
- Write and speak about Indigenous art and issues, including at national conferences and gatherings
- Work closely with other museums to develop and implement a wide range of interpretive programs and materials
- Lead the Museum forward in a way that prioritizes community participation
- Focus on strategic mission, priorities and annual programmatic goals and work with Senior Leadership in developing messaging
- Serve as a member of the curatorial team—contribute to the research, development and presentation of new exhibitions and projects that interpret contemporary culture and respond to the global flow of information, emerging discourses, new artists, new geographies, new media and changing contexts
- Advance the activities of Polar Lab, SEED Lab, Design Week, North x North and other Museum initiatives
- Work with staff to ensure that the Museum programs are timely, topical, and address important issues of Alaska and the North's past, present and future
- Coordinate project teams, artists, volunteers, interns, content experts and others as needed
- Develop collaborations with local, statewide and national university faculty and academic departments to foster the use of Museum distinctive collections and intellectual content
- Raise awareness, engage new audiences and encourage the scholarly use of the Museum's holdings in archives and in the collection
- Build relationships that will engage Native elders and emerging artists in the selection and interpretation of prospective collections for loans

Non-Essential Functions

- Participate in a national and international network of indigenous curators
- Support grant proposals and project and grant budgets
- Coordinate marketing and PR effort for programs
- Develop films and film content in partnership with staff
- Engage participants in the virtual world
- Other duties as assigned

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities

- Strong knowledge of Alaska Native cultures and indigenous cultures of the Circumpolar North
- Excellent communication skills--spoken and written
- Knowledge of programmatic development process
- Ability to be innovative, team-oriented and highly motivated
- Able to work with a variety of individuals and agencies
- Able to work independently and organize time efficiently to meet deadlines

- Strong leadership qualities and abilities
- Able to handle multiple tasks and projects with changing priorities as required
- Strong organizational skills and able to set and carry out short-term goals while keeping long-term goals in mind
- Excellent interpersonal skills and be able to work professionally and collaboratively with colleagues from diverse backgrounds in a team-oriented environment
- Able to solve practical problems and deal with a variety of concrete variables in situations where only limited standardization exists
- Initiative to undertake and complete tasks and projects as they arise

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in American Indian Studies, Anthropology, Museum Studies, Art, Art History, or related field. Master's degree preferred
- Five or more years of professional experience and substantial experience and track record in a programmatic or other closely related position, or an equivalent combination of education and experience, as a community curator, contemporary artist or community organizer working in arts and culture
- Experience with publications preferred

Employee Expectations

As an AMA employee, the incumbent is expected to model the following traits:

- Foster and maintain open communication and collaboration and actively engage in the exchange of ideas and maintaining constructive relationships
- Initiative and creativity in all aspects of the position
- Lead by example by maintaining a high standard of professional ethics and conduct
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect
- Support and uphold the policies, procedures of the AMA

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all duties, responsibilities, and skills required.

Physical Demands

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to sit; use hands to finger, handle or feel; reach with hands and arms; talk or hear. The employee is regularly required to stand; walk; and occasionally required to stoop, kneel, crouch or

crawl. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 30 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, and ability to adjust focus.

Work Environment

The work environment characteristics described here are typical of an office environment and representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.