

MUSKEGON MUSEUM OF ART

COLLECTIONS MANAGER/ASSOCIATE PREPARATOR

Muskegon Museum of Art, Michigan

The Muskegon Museum of Art (MMA) seeks a full-time Collections Manager/Associate Preparator with proven experience in museum collections management in a manner consistent with the highest standards as recommended by American Alliance of Museums (AAM) with all applicable laws and regulations pertaining to collections and collecting activities. The position reports to the Director of Collections and Exhibitions, serves on the exhibition development team, and is the lead staff member responsible for proper care and handling of the fine art collection.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Collections

- 1) Prepares, maintains, and updates all data for the approximately 5,000 MMA Permanent Collection objects in Microsoft Access, hard copy files, and ledgers. Oversees all cataloging for accessioning/deaccessioning objects.
- 2) Facilitates/documents all long and short-term loans to/from the museum, including working with lenders, maintaining insurance, and filing condition reports. Maintains records of all loans and past, current, and future exhibitions.
- 3) Maintains storage of the permanent collection and loans. Tracks the movement of all artworks and updates locations in the computer database.
- 4) Serves as primary contact for rights and reproductions, copyright, and Fair Use issues. Works with photographers to document the permanent collection. Creates and stores digital photos of the permanent collection and, as needed, loans and exhibitions.
- 5) Works with the Preparator to arrange for the crating and transportation of objects from the permanent collection, loans, and exhibitions. Works with outside vendors to arrange for incoming/outgoing shipping, both domestically and internationally.
- 6) Works with Executive Director and Director of Collections and Exhibitions to develop and implement policies/procedures for governing the permanent collection, emergency planning, security, and other museum functions as needed.
- 7) With the Executive Director and Director of Collections and Exhibitions, prepares agendas, art, and documentation for the Collections Committee and the MMA Foundation Board of Trustees.
- 8) Works with appraisers to maintain current values for the Permanent Collection and the insurance company to ensure protection of the collection and all loans and exhibitions.
- 9) Tracks the condition of permanent collection objects and coordinates conservation efforts with the Director of Collections and Exhibitions and Preparator. Works with outside conservators when required.
- 10) Oversees auction and sales activity for non-accessioned and deaccessioned objects.
- 11) Maintains gallery checklists and coordinates with security personnel to assure proper security oversight of the galleries and facility.

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- 12) The incumbent will be expected to develop an understanding of the functions of the museum's HVAC, electrical, and security systems and equipment in order to manage controls, identify problems, and coordinate with outside vendors to repair and maintain the respective systems.
- 13) Assists with permanent collection research.

Preparatorial

- 1) Assists Director of Collections and Exhibitions and Preparator in exhibition planning/design.
- 2) Prepares labels and didactics for display and assists with mounting and installation.
- 3) Assists with art movement, installation, and exhibition lighting.
- 4) Assists with framing, matting, and mounting of art for display.
- 5) Assists with basic conservation.

Other

- 1) Other duties as assigned, including contributing to major fund raising events organized by the museum (Gala, On Tap, Festival of Trees)

QUALIFICATIONS

The person holding this position is a critical member of a small team responsible for planning and installing 10-14 exhibitions annually. Fine art knowledge and experience are essential.

At a minimum, the candidate will possess two years of prior museum/gallery experience in registrarial and/or curatorial departments. (Candidates with MA or MFA degrees in fine arts, museum studies, art history, or related fields are also eligible under this requirement, but must have some prior collections management experience) Expertise with computers including collections management software is required. Candidates must have experience in handling and installing art. A proven ability to work within a team setting and interact with museum guests, volunteers, and donors is essential.

Certain physical activities are required:

- Must be able to climb a 12' ladder and reach both arms above the head
- Must be able to lift and carry a minimum of 40 lbs. without assistance.
- Must have a basic familiarity with hand tools.

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Four (4) years of college, including related college course work in art history, museum studies, and/or fine arts is a minimum requirement. Graduate work in related field a strong plus.