



Job Description **CURATOR**

The Museum of Nebraska Art, in affiliation with the University of Nebraska at Kearney, seeks a dynamic curator to join its senior team to celebrate the history of Nebraska's visual art, and by extension the story of America. The ideal candidate is a collaborative and forward-thinking leader, committed to curating innovative and rigorous exhibitions. A professional background in American art is preferred; regardless of specialization, the curator will be expected to be flexible and ambitious with all genres. Progressive advancement and broad experience in a museum is ideal. Administrator and managerial experience is strongly preferred.

About MONA

The collection of over 5,000 works by artists of local, national and international acclaim spans nearly 200 years of history. Works range from 19th-century artist-explorers like George Catlin and Albert Bierstadt to early 20th-century Cozad, NE resident Robert Henri, to American regionalist Thomas Hart Benton. Contemporary Nebraska artists represent a significant and growing part of the collection as well. MONA serves as the cultural center for Nebraska art and artists by providing quality exhibitions and programs to audiences statewide. MONA is a private nonprofit museum affiliated with the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK).

Position Summary:

This position provides leadership and strategic direction for the Museum's curatorial program including research, design, and implementation of innovative exhibition strategies; care, management, and development of artifact, archival, and digital collections; development and production of dynamic programming.

Essential Functions:

Exhibitions

- Plans, identifies, and organizes art exhibitions including advance scheduling; make contacts with other lenders/museums for loans.
- Conceive, propose, plan, and deliver ambitious, and thought-provoking art exhibitions from the permanent collection and from other institutions; conduct research and writing that illuminates MONA's holdings and expands its interpretative possibilities;
- Coordinate exhibition schedule with senior leadership team, subject to the approval of the Executive Director. This includes shaping messaging, implementing final object and graphic selection, and script writing/editing.
- Develop a long-term vision for the Museum's exhibition program that utilizes a collaborative and integrated approach that enhances the quality of the visitor experience, attracts positive press, and earns respect from the general public and community of historians.
- Research, write, and present either written or oral information on curatorial initiatives and exhibitions at MONA.
- Develop and maintain curatorial department, exhibition and collection related budgets; make adjustments throughout the year as necessary.

- Active participant in and supervise installations and de-installations of exhibitions.
- Train staff as required to impart art handling skills, professional museum related skills, and safety procedures.
- Collaborates with the Engagement department to support audience assessment, community engagement, and curricula development.
- Collaborates with the Development department and Executive Director to identify funding sources and prepare grant proposals.
- Oversees activities related to Permanent Collection development; reviews gift proposals and presents recommendations to the Executive Director and Collections committee.
- Cultivate Museum contacts to enhance the reputation of the Museum and its collection; maintains strong contacts with artists, curators, collectors, artwork donors and consultants.
- Develops community collaborations and partnerships to extend MONA's reach and capacity.
- Supervises staff within Curatorial Department.

Collections Management

- Oversees and coordinates collections management activities.
- Develops long-term collections strategy providing stewardship and accountability for the museum's collections according to AAM standards.
- Be knowledgeable of and practice the AAM's Code of Ethics.

Research

- The Curator conducts original research on art of Nebraska and American history and culture. The curator defines topics of genuine significance and ensure alignment with the museum's strategic goals and priorities.
- The Curator initiates, reviews, and/or evaluates proposals for new research projects or major shifts in existing research or curatorial initiatives. The curator will also render decisions on proposals and provide leadership and guidance on their improvement and/or implementation.

Minimum Qualifications:

- A Master's degree, from a regionally accredited college or university in a directly related area of specialization (Art History/Museum Studies/MFA)
- Knowledge of American art.
- Minimum of 3 years of curatorial experience.
- Must have at least 2 years of personnel management experience.
- Knowledge of contemporary practices and trends in engaging the public through creative and innovative practice.
- Proven experience in cultivating relationships, collaborations, and partnerships with regional and national communities.
- Demonstrated record of scholarship, publications and collaborative programming.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills; ability to interface effectively and diplomatically with staff, faculty, and the community.
- Record of strong management and analytic skills, both strategic and operational
- Ability to work a flexible schedule, including evenings and weekends, as needed
- Ability to represent the Museum in the upmost professional manner
- Ability to plan strategically and long-range for the exhibition schedule
- High energy, strong motivation and a hands-on work ethic
- Personality to enjoy social interaction
- Valid NE driver's license or ability to acquire this

Working Conditions:

- Regularly required to stand; walk; sit; use hands; reach with hands and arms; stoop, kneel.
- Must frequently lift and / or move up to 25 pounds and occasionally lift and / or move up to 50 pounds.
- Specific vision abilities required include: close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception and ability to adjust focus.

Required Applicant Documents:

- Resume/CV
- Cover Letter
- Contact information for 3 References
- Writing Sample

To apply visit: [UNK Employment Opportunities](#). Direct questions about the position to: mona@unk.edu. Direct questions about the on-line application process to: (308) 865-8516 or employment@unk.edu UNK is an Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity employer. Veterans and persons with disabilities encouraged to apply. www.unk.edu