

JOB POSTING: Curator

Textile Museum of Canada

The Museum

The Textile Museum of Canada's Mission is to ignite creativity, inspire wonder and spark conversation and learning through the stories held within our collection of textiles, and through active engagement with contemporary artistic practices. Our Mandate is to connect a collection of global textiles to contemporary creative research and expression, as well as to local, national, and international experiences with textiles at their core. Established in 1975, the Museum's permanent collection has grown to include more than 15,000 textiles hand made by individuals and cultural groups from around the world, embodying expressions of diverse identities and material cultures.

Textiles made by Indigenous communities in North America, South America and Central America form a significant part of the collection, however it also incorporates textile traditions from Africa, South Asia (India and Pakistan), Central Asia (Afghanistan and Uzbekistan) and East Asia and Southeast Asia (China and Indonesia). The collection originates from over 200 regions of the world and represents a continuum of creative textile practices from historic into the present.

Our artistic activities feature a distinctive series of exhibitions and inclusive public programs geared to all ages that foster awareness of diverse cultural values. We present textiles as a way of activating dialogues that value daily experiences and social relations from perspectives of art, craft, technology and science that strengthen community connections. We ensure that artistic collaborators, guest curators, researchers, exhibitors, partners, and presenters have a secure, respectful investigative space of exploration and learning.

This critical embrace of the people who are passionate about textile cultures is unprecedented in Canada and is supported by partnerships with other arts and educational institutions. We present visitors, members, colleagues, and peers with opportunities to connect with 2000 years of history while providing local, Canadian, and international artists, students and curators with a platform that values inspiring inclusive representation. The Museum fills a need in this country for critical access and display of creative practices that have material exploration and human identity at their core.

An award-winning and nimble institution, the Museum chooses a community focussed approach to object display and storytelling in the Collection Gallery. This is complemented by multidisciplinary contemporary art installations that connect to the collection and reflect the human experience. The Museum has a comprehensive diversity, equity, and inclusion plan to influence and impact all areas of work and has a history of presenting diverse artists and makers.

The role:

This is an opportunity to grow with the Textile Museum of Canada and implement a new artistic vision for the Museum's future. The Curator is key to enhancing the Museum's profile in Canada and internationally. They will be responsible for establishing and driving the artistic direction, articulated in a unique positioning of the Museum through exhibitions, programming and the collection, and in representing the organization as a prominent public ambassador and advocate.

The Curator reports to the Director and CEO and is part of a collaborative leadership team that includes the Senior Curator & Manager of Collection, and the Senior Manager, Visitor Engagement & Operations. All will participate in building the Strategic Plan for the future of the institution.

In collaboration with the Senior Curator and Manager of Collection and the Head of Public Programs and Outreach, they will develop the long-term exhibition planning schedule. In its implementation they will manage program and exhibition staff and contractors, as well as project staff hired through grants to support artistic efforts and activities related to exhibitions and programs. They will participate in the development and ongoing review of institutional policies pertinent to all aspects of collection and curatorial activities, education programs, and human resources.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Curatorial Strategy and Duties (40%)

- Provides artistic direction with a goal to realize the research potential of the collection through innovative exhibitions, publications, and collaborations, and expressing a diverse range of artistic practices, identities, and experiences.
- Oversees and approves programming, and ensures that onsite and digital engagement of communities with the global collection and exhibitions enliven visitors' experiences and are accessible to audiences of all ages, abilities and identities.
- Curates, co-curates, or assigns internal or guest curators for all exhibitions developed.
- Researches and develops original exhibition concepts and content for potential shows they wish to curate, and oversees development from concept to installation.
- Procures suitable touring exhibitions as fitting to artistic direction as part of exhibition planning schedule, and contracts, associated guest curators and artists where applicable.
- Curates, co-curates, or assigns internal staff curator or guest curators for all exhibitions developed in-house and touring exhibitions or partnership installations.
- Researches and develops original concept and content for exhibitions they propose to curate.
- Oversees approved exhibitions schedule, oversees the exhibition development from concept to installation.
- Builds in flexibility in smaller Textile Learning Hub exhibit spaces for installations that respond promptly to current issues of relevance to the audiences of the Textile Museum of Canada.
- Oversees exhibition related materials including any funded publications.
- Develops and identifies funding for a new BIPOC curatorial incubator program.
- Provides input on acquisitions to the collection and participates on the Collection Development Advisory Committee.
- Acts as the primary curatorial resource to staff and for the public, playing a leadership and ambassadorial role on behalf of the Museum in Canada and internationally.
- Builds links with galleries and museums at the provincial, national, and international level, and presents at conferences, and participation in panels and lectures for the Museum and partners.

Exhibition Planning and Installation (30%)

- Develops strategic long-term schedules for all exhibitions and related programs with considerations of contemporary relevance, audience growth, and mission.

- They will collaborate closely with the Senior Curator and Manager of Collection on plans in the permanent collection gallery for exhibitions, and community engagement.
- Ensures consultation of staff, works closely to guide, and support the Exhibition and Collection Coordinator, and owns implementation of the overall schedule.
- Liaises with other institutions, collectors, artists, and experts to further strengthen the Museum's reputation and ensure we are an exhibition partner of choice.
- Leads exhibition interpretation plans with the support of programming and education team.
- Oversees freelance installation staff requirements and assesses best use of time for best ROI.
- Manages strategic relationships, including with partners, stakeholders, donors, and funders, and strengthens community links and interest in exhibitions.

Administrative (30%)

- Supervises a team providing constructive guidance and annual performance appraisals.
- Oversees contracts for related freelancers and suppliers.
- Manages external communication in response to general queries, and media, artists and curatorial submissions
- Writes and reports on all aspects related to exhibition activities for all grant applications including to the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Department of Canadian Heritage, City of Toronto, and others as required.
- Develops the description of exhibitions for fundraising proposals and assists with cultivation of donors and sponsors.
- Delivers tours, talks and other content for a variety of stakeholder groups.
- Manages all department budgets and invoices and contracts.
- Contributes to the implementation of our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan.
- Attends Board of Directors, Collection Development Advisory Council meetings and other Committees as developed or as appropriate.

REPORTING STRUCTURE:

- Reports to the Director and CEO
- Direct Reports:
 - Senior Curator and Manager of Collection
 - Exhibitions and Collection Coordinator (dotted line with Senior Curator)
 - Head of Public Programs and Outreach
 - freelance installers
 - freelance designers
 - curators part of programs/incubators
- Indirect Reports:
 - Conservator

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. A graduate degree and an active scholarly professional practice conducting primary research in an applicable (textile preferred) field.
2. 5+ years of professional curatorial experience.

3. Substantial contacts in the field and in the arts and culture sector in general, as related to research, programming and outreach efforts.
4. An intercultural skill set to effectively work with a diverse group of staff, artists and community members, and lived experience and/or history of engagement with LGBTQIA2S+ and BIPOC communities.
5. Museum/Gallery experience in exhibition management, development, and interpretation.
6. Demonstrable experience in project management, grant writing, budget management.
7. Clarity of communication skills including presentations, talks and writing/publishing.
8. Respectful and productive interpersonal relations in managing staff to bring empathy to work relationships and purpose to roles.

COMPENSATION:

- \$76,000 per annum, paid biweekly
Band range: \$76,000 to \$114,000
- A comprehensive health and dental benefits package
- 2 weeks of paid vacation to start
- 10 paid sick days per year
- 5 paid personal days per year
- Hybrid work model

TO APPLY:

Please email a cover letter and resume in a single PDF.

The cover letter should outline your approach to curation from both practical and theoretical perspectives and include details of your subject matter expertise and research objectives.

Your resume should list your work experiences in chronological order and applicants are encouraged to include all professional experiences including those outside museums and galleries. Please include a list of exhibitions, publications and three links to writing samples.

Please send the PDF to:

hrsearch@textilemuseum.ca

Applicants meeting the requirements will be interviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled, with a target hire date of September 28, 2022.

The email subject line should read <title of position applied for> <followed by applicant's last name>.

Kindly note that we will accept no phone calls. We thank all applicants for their interest but advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Textile Museum of Canada maintains a Board of Trustees approved Anti-Racism, Access, and Equity Policy. Respect, accountability, and a courteous manner towards other staff, volunteers, and the public are required.

We invite all candidates who meet the eligibility criteria to apply, however in keeping with the Museum's equity goals; we encourage applications from candidates who have lived experience of

disability, and/or BIPOC candidates, and/or 2SLGBTQIAP+ candidates. Candidates are encouraged to self-identify.

In accordance with the Ontario Human Rights, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act & the TMC's Recruitment & Selection Policy for Staff, a request for accommodation can be made in the hiring process. The Textile Museum of Canada is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

A criminal reference check will be required of the final candidate.

Staff must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and adhere to all provincial public health regulations in the Museum.