



OF CANADA

## JOB POSTING: Head Curator

**REPORTS TO:** Director and CEO

**POSITION TYPE:** Permanent Full-Time

**START DATE:** OPEN UNTIL FILLED

### The role:

The Head Curator leads the artistic vision of the Textile Museum of Canada. With a minimum of five years of professional curatorial experience developing exhibitions in public institutions and an advanced degree in a related field, they will enhance the Museum's profile in Canada and internationally.

The Head Curator is integral in helping build the Strategic Plan for our future. They will be a researcher, story teller, connector, writer, programmer and mentor with experience working with diverse communities and supporting artists historically underrepresented in the museum sector. They will respond to current issues and plan exhibitions and programs that engage broader interest and repeat visitation and participation.

Reporting to the Director and CEO, they are part of a collaborative leadership team that represents the Museum as ambassadors and advocates. Day to day the Head Curator will manage curatorial and learning staff and contractors, as well as project staff 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.

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.

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

#### Curatorial (40%)

- Provides artistic direction with a goal to realize the research potential of the collection through innovative exhibitions, publications, and collaborations, which will express a diverse range of artistic practices, identities, and experiences.
- Oversees and develops exhibition related 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.
- Identifies suitable touring exhibitions as fitting to artistic direction as part of exhibition planning schedule, and contracts guest curators and artists where applicable.
- 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 and Acquisitions 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.

#### Exhibitions (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 their direct report, 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 Curatorial 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 the 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.

#### Administration (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, media, artists, and curatorial submissions
- Writes and reports on all aspects related to exhibition activities, with support from curatorial staff, for 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, and Committees as relevant to the role.

#### **REPORTING STRUCTURE:**

- Reports to the Director and CEO
- Direct Reports:
  - Senior Curator and Manager of Collection
  - Senior Manager, Community Engagement & Learning
  - Curatorial and Collection Coordinator (dotted line with Senior Curator)
  - Freelance exhibition installation specialists
  - Freelance exhibit designers and interpreters
  - Guest Curators

#### **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 history of engagement with 2SLGBTQIAP+ 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:**

- HIRING RANGE - \$70,000 to \$76,000 annual salary
- 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](mailto:hrsearch@textilemuseum.ca)

***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.

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.

Relocation costs will be considered.

### **About The Textile Museum of Canada**

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.