

Textile Museum of Canada Head Curator

We acknowledge that the land on which the Textile Museum of Canada operates is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabe, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat. It is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Through our activities we seek to create a space for people to share, learn, and celebrate the textile practices of today and long ago in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect.

The mission of the [Textile Museum of Canada](#) (the Museum) is to ignite creativity, inspire wonder, and spark conversation and learning through the stories held within its collection of textiles and through active engagement with contemporary artistic practices. 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. The collection originates from over 200 regions of the world and represents a continuum of creative textile practices from historic into the present. The Museum's artistic activities feature a distinctive series of exhibitions and inclusive public programs geared to all ages that foster awareness of diverse cultural values. Textile Museum of Canada presents 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, supported by partnerships with other arts and educational institutions. 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.

The Textile Museum of Canada has a long history of work in support of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)—in programming, exhibitions, and education (examples of this work are available [here](#)). It is within this context that the Museum invites nominations and applications for the role of **Head Curator**, a position that will have an indelible impact on the future of the organization.

The next Head Curator will lead the artistic vision of the Textile Museum of Canada, leveraging their professional curatorial experience in developing exhibitions in public institutions to enhance the Museum's profile in Canada and internationally. They will be integral in helping to build the Museum's Strategic Plan, acting as a researcher, storyteller, connector, writer, programmer, and mentor as well as making use of their experience working with diverse communities and supporting artists from

communities historically underrepresented in the museum sector. The Head Curator will respond to current issues and plan exhibitions and programs that engage broader interest and promote repeat visitation and participation. Reporting to the Director and CEO, they will be 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 also participate in the development and ongoing review of institutional policies pertinent to all aspects of collection and curatorial activities, education programs, and human resources.

Qualifications

Among the qualifications being sought in candidates, the incoming leader must have a deep and abiding commitment to advancing reconciliation, equity, diversity, and inclusion in all its forms and must believe, intrinsically, in the importance of leading with curiosity and welcoming ideas that can later be synthesized and turned into possibility. While all candidates are encouraged to apply and, in so doing, share how they see themselves adding value to the environment of the Textile Museum of Canada, the following credentials and/or experiences are seen as possible markers of the candidates most likely to realize success in the role: A) an intercultural skill set to effectively work with a diverse group of staff, artists and community members, and history of engagement with LGBTQIA2S+ and BIPOC communities; B) several years of curatorial experience; C) a graduate degree and/or an active scholarly professional practice conducting primary research in an applicable field, and; D) demonstrable experience in project management, grant writing, and budget management.

How to Apply

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.

*Textile Museum of Canada is partnering with BIPOC Executive Search to ensure an applicant list that is diverse and is as intersectional as possible. **All interested applicants can send their résumé to Melissa Sumnauth by e-mailing msumnauth@bipocsearch.com, or can apply through the BIPOC Executive Search mobile app.***

In accordance with the AODA Act, for applicants living with a disability accommodation will be provided throughout the search process. Should

accommodations be required, please make Melissa Sumnauth aware by using the above address.

We thank everyone for their expression of interest—and are truly appreciative of the time individuals put into applying—but with the limitations of time only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
