



Position Description

Susanne Feld Hilberry Senior Curator

About MOCAD

The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) presents exhibitions and programs that explore the best of contemporary art, connecting Detroit and the global art world. MOCAD is focused on art as a means to nurture social change and human understanding, reflecting our community. We encourage innovative experimentation by artists, musicians, makers, cultural producers, and scholars to enrich all who participate and to educate visitors of all ages in the power of art. Whether from Detroit, or around the world, we welcome creative voices who can guide us to an equitable and inclusive future. We believe that art can change us, and it's our responsibility to hold a space where challenge, acceptance, hope, and beauty can coincide.

MOCAD opened to the public in 2006. It is operated by a staff of roughly 25 employees who work to deliver two to three exhibition and programming seasons per year in both MOCAD's main building and Mike Kelley's Mobile Homestead. MOCAD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

About the Role

Named after the late esteemed gallerist, arts advocate and co-founder of MOCAD, Susanne Hilberry, the Susanne Feld Hilberry Senior Curator is a passionate advocate for contemporary art that provokes and engages a diverse public. The Senior Curator brings insightful and seasoned leadership to MOCAD's Curatorial Department, which encompasses exhibitions and artist-driven initiatives. The position works closely with the Artistic Director to conceptualize, develop, and execute a robust curatorial program at the museum. Together they will determine essential curatorial throughlines that speak to and encourage knowledge sharing in the arts. They are a key member of the Museum's senior management team, actively participating in shaping the organization's vision and mission, while supervising Assistant Curators in the Curatorial Department. The Senior Curator cultivates relationships with artists, academics, collectors, galleries, institutions, and the broader art world, building support for MOCAD's artistic program. MOCAD is a non-collecting museum, and centers contemporary art of our time and typically presents 10-12 exhibitions per year.

Classification

Status: Full-time, Exempt.

Compensation

\$70,000 - \$80,000

Schedule

Monday-Friday; some evening and weekend hours as needed. In-office vs at-home schedules are staggered at present due to pandemic safety guidelines.



Reports To Artistic Director

Direct Reports

Assistant Curators (2)

Responsibilities

Scope of Position as oriented towards assigned curatorial projects

- Work closely with Artistic Director, senior leadership, and curatorial team to ensure curatorial program is aligned to MOCADs mission, vision, and strategic priorities
- Maintain a thorough knowledge of contemporary art practice through visits to exhibitions, artists' studios, conferences and discussions; maintain good contact with the profession and to keep abreast of critical debates and developments in museums and the arts, both within the United States and internationally.
- Work with the Artistic Director to create a robust curatorial program that encourages a theme-based approach to knowledge sharing.
- Manage all positions in the curatorial department to ensure that their work plans account for individual projects and any assigned tasks that support the work of the Senior Curator and Artistic Director.
- Be present and oversee installation of Exhibits. This includes exhibitions curated by Guest, or Assistant Curators.
- Oversee, research, author and edit exhibition-related printed matter, including wall vinyl, labels, gallery guides, catalogs and exhibition invitations.
- Be an editor for exhibitions related materials produced by anyone on the curatorial team.
- Actively work with the Artistic Director, COO and Director of Development to support any fundraising efforts for the museum including grant, private donor or corporate sponsorships. This includes the solicitation of artwork for MOCADs annual gala auction.
- In collaboration with the Artistic Director and Exhibitions Manager, support the tracking of exhibitions related budgets.
- Seek and develop opportunities for collaboration and partnership working with third parties to maximize resources where possible.
- Advise on Exhibition related MOCAD store merchandise pertaining to the exhibitions.
- Contribute to the conceptualization of public programs aimed at engaging new and diverse audiences for MOCAD through a mix of exhibitions and education offerings that develop audience understanding of contemporary art.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Art History, Fine Arts, Arts Education or related studies, Master's degree preferred.
- 5-10 years of curatorial experience in a museum or art gallery.
- Excellent organizational and multitasking abilities, with a "get it done" personality.
- Demonstrated portfolio of working with underrepresented artists
- A demonstrated understanding of progressive D.E.I.A strategies
- Adept at cultivating new resources in support of exhibitions and public projects;



- Demonstrated ability working with artists and colleagues including engaging with donors and trustees;
- In-depth knowledge of and enthusiasm for global contemporary visual art, artists, museums and exhibitions, including a strong and diverse network of professional contacts in the field.
- Ability to represent the museum with the highest level of integrity and professionalism, advocate for and adhere to museum policies, and contribute to and support management decisions in a positive, professional manner.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work on a team.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, with approachable communication qualities.
- Experience with general administrative duties.
- Working knowledge of Apple OSX, MS Office Suite (Word and Excel), Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop and InDesign), and File Maker Pro (or similar database program).

Desired Skills and Experience

Organizational skills
Strong communications skills
High discretion and ethics
Skilled at conflict resolution
Ability to adapt to the use of new technology tools as needed.

To apply for this role, please email your resume and cover letter as a PDF to jobs@mocadetroit.org.
Unfortunately, we are unable to respond to inquiries about hiring or this position.