



## **Curator, Learning and Community Engagement - Job Posting**

The Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA) seeks candidates for a full-time Curator of Learning and Community Engagement (CLCE). The CLCE is a senior leadership role responsible for shaping and advancing MMoCA’s vision for inclusive, intergenerational, and community-centered engagement with contemporary art.

This position leads the development of a dynamic, welcoming environment in which visitors of all backgrounds—whether first-time or deeply engaged—experience the Museum as a place for shared inquiry, dialogue, and self-directed learning. The CLCE will design and implement strategies that prioritize adult and intergenerational learning, foster meaningful community relationships, and activate the Museum’s galleries and public spaces as sites of connection, creativity, and belonging.

The Curator oversees key youth programs including Teen Forum and Art Cart, while expanding the Museum’s approach to engagement beyond traditional education models. This role also supervises the Visitor Engagement Associates (formerly Gallery Attendants), Docents, and the Director of Visitor Engagement, embedding a culture of hospitality, curiosity, and conversation at every point of visitor interaction.

Working in close collaboration with members of the Curatorial Affairs, Communications, and Development departments, this position plays a central role in aligning exhibitions, programs, and visitor experience into a cohesive and welcoming institutional identity.

The Madison Museum of Contemporary Art is an independent, nonprofit organization that presents exhibitions by local, regional, national, and international artists. MMoCA exhibits, collects, and preserves modern and contemporary art to provide transformative experiences that educate, reflect, and inspire us as individuals and as a community.

### **ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Strategic Leadership & Vision**

- Develop and implement a forward-thinking institutional strategy for learning and community engagement that prioritizes intergenerational participation, adult learning, and self-directed exploration.
- Position MMoCA as a leading “third space” for community gathering, dialogue, and shared cultural experience.
- Champion a Museum-wide culture of welcome, accessibility, and belonging across all visitor touchpoints.

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- Collaborate with senior leadership to align engagement strategies with institutional priorities, exhibitions, and fundraising initiatives.
- Advocate for the role of community engagement as central to the Museum's mission and future.

## **Public Learning & Community Engagement**

- Design and oversee a robust portfolio of public programs that emphasize conversation, participation, and shared discovery, including talks, workshops, performances, and informal in-gallery experiences.
- Reframe gallery spaces as active sites of engagement through innovative interpretive strategies, learning tools, and participatory experiences.
- Expand adult and intergenerational learning opportunities that move beyond traditional lecture-based formats toward dialogue-driven and socially engaged models.
- Build partnerships with local organizations, artists, educators, and community groups to co-create relevant and responsive programming.

## **Visitor Experience & Engagement Staff Leadership**

- Supervise and lead the Visitor Engagement Associates (formerly Gallery Attendants), establishing a model of visitor engagement rooted in hospitality, curiosity, and conversation.
- Develop training programs that equip staff to facilitate meaningful interactions with visitors, rather than solely monitor galleries.
- Establish standards and practices that ensure a consistently welcoming, inclusive, and engaging visitor experience throughout the Museum.
- Partner with Operations and Curatorial Affairs teams to ensure alignment between exhibitions and front-line visitor engagement.

## **Teen Forum & Youth Programs**

- Oversee and evolve the Teen Forum program as a flagship leadership and mentorship initiative that connects young people to contemporary art, creative practice, and professional pathways.
- Ensure Teen Forum is integrated into the Museum's broader community engagement strategy, including opportunities for intergenerational exchange.
- Maintain and grow Art Cart as a visible and accessible community program, aligning it with institutional goals around outreach and public presence.
- Shift youth programming from a standalone focus to part of a continuum of lifelong learning.

## **Interpretation & Learning Tools**

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- Collaborate with Curatorial Affairs to develop accessible, engaging interpretive materials that support multiple entry points into exhibitions.
- Lead the creation of in-gallery and digital learning tools that encourage self-directed exploration and dialogue.
- Ensure interpretive strategies reflect diverse perspectives and support inclusive storytelling.

## **Evaluation & Continuous Improvement**

- Leverage systems for gathering visitor feedback and evaluating engagement initiatives.
- Use qualitative and quantitative data to refine programs and improve the visitor experience.
- Share insights across departments to inform institutional decision-making.

## **Institutional Collaboration & Representation**

- Work cross-departmentally with exhibitions curators, Communications, Development, and Operations to ensure cohesive visitor-facing initiatives.
- Represent MMoCA in the community through partnerships, events, and public-facing opportunities.

## **Other Duties**

- Contribute to Museum-wide initiatives, including Art Fair on the Square and major institutional events. Help staff Art Fair on the Square, usually held the second weekend in July, alongside other MMoCA colleagues.
- Support and advance MMoCA's commitments to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion across all areas of work.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Education & Experience**

- Bachelor's degree required; advanced degree in museum studies, education, arts administration, or related field preferred.
- 5+ years of progressive experience in museum engagement, community-based practice, or public programming, with demonstrated leadership experience.
- Proven and demonstrable success in designing and implementing innovative engagement strategies for diverse audiences, particularly adults and intergenerational groups.

### **Skills & Competencies**

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- Strong leadership and team management skills, with the ability to inspire and develop staff.
- Deep understanding of contemporary museum practice, particularly in visitor engagement, interpretation, and community collaboration.
- Excellent communication and facilitation skills, with the ability to engage a wide range of audiences.
- Demonstrated ability to think strategically while executing programs at a high level; must translate quantitative and qualitative data into practice and use data to improve operations.
- Comfort working in dynamic, public-facing environments.
- Commitment to fostering inclusive, equitable, and welcoming spaces.

## **WORK ENVIRONMENT AND JOB SPECIFICATIONS**

- Work is performed in a combination of office, gallery, and public program settings.
- Regular movement throughout museum spaces and interaction with visitors and staff.
- Ability to lift up to 20 pounds occasionally.
- Some evening and weekend hours required for programs and events.

## **COMPENSATION & BENEFITS**

Starting annual salary is \$68,000–70,000. This full-time position includes an excellent benefits package, as well as a generous Paid Time Off (PTO) bank and 11 paid holidays.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Candidates are asked to submit a resume and cover letter to [hr@mmoca.org](mailto:hr@mmoca.org) by June 12, 2026. Application review will begin upon receipt.