The Newark Museum of Art

Position Announcement

Curator, Arts of Global Africa

Background:
Founded in 1909, The Newark Museum of Art ("the Museum") is one of the most influential museums in the United States and the largest art and education institution in New Jersey. Its extensive collections, which include art from around the world as well as significant holdings of science, technology, and natural history, rank 12th in size nationally. The Museum is dedicated to artistic excellence, education and community engagement with an overarching commitment to broadening and diversifying arts participation.

A cultural anchor institution in Newark for more than a century, the Museum advances its mission by operating in the public trust as a museum of service and as a leader in connecting objects and ideas to the needs and wishes of its constituencies. The Museum’s renowned art collections have the power to educate, inspire and transform individuals of all ages, and the local, regional, national and international communities that it serves. As our mission statement aptly states, We welcome everyone with inclusive experiences that spark curiosity and foster community. The Museum responds to the evolving needs and interests of the diverse audiences it serves by providing exhibitions, programming, a research library, partnerships and resources designed to enrich people’s lives.

The Museum’s collections are presented in 91 galleries housed on a four-acre campus that encompasses the National Historic Landmark-designated Ballantine House, the Dreyfuss Memorial Garden, and Horizon Plaza. The Museum also features the Alice and Leonard Dreyfuss Planetarium, as well as the MakerSPACE, a dedicated studio and exhibition space that offers interactive, hands-on activities for visitors all ages, integrating the arts with STEM learning.

Position Objective:
The Newark Museum of Art’s collection of the Arts of Global Africa comprises some 6000 artworks from across the African continent and its diaspora; from ancient to the art of today; and across media. The first object to enter the collection—a Zulu beadwork apron—occurred in 1917. Ever since, the Museum has foregrounded the collection in exhibitions and by actively acquiring works through gift and purchase. Notably in 2017, the Arts of Global Africa galleries opened, featuring an array of objects organized thematically, from unrecorded artists to Simone Leigh. The Museum is committed to inclusively presenting its historic holdings in dialogue with its contemporary, trans-continental, global collection.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:
- Oversee all aspects of the Arts of Global Africa collection with a visitor-centric ethos.
- Shape the future of the collection through strategic acquisitions and deaccessions.
- Advocate for innovative approaches to activating the collection and introducing fresh narratives.
- Research and interpret the collection to develop gallery rotations, installations, and publications, in collaboration with cross-functional teams.
- Conceptualize and produce original, canon-expanding exhibitions for presentation at the Museum and for potential travel to other venues.
- Partner with local, regional, global entities to build authentic institutional relationships.

Qualifications:
- Advanced degree in art history or a related discipline, such as Africana studies, anthropology, or history, with strong knowledge of historical and contemporary material; Ph.D. or commensurate experience preferred.
- 6-8 years of experience at a museum, arts non-profit, or other cultural organization, as well as a record of publication.
- Knowledge of and experience with successful community engagement strategies.
- Ability to cultivate constituents and stakeholders.
- Ability to collaborate and build consensus with the Development, Learning & Engagement, and Marketing teams.
- Outstanding interpersonal skills working with a diverse set of partners.
- Outstanding oral presentation and written communication skills.
- Experience writing visitor-friendly interpretive texts for multiple audiences.
- Proven ability to take ownership of projects and to manage several priorities with competing deadlines.
- Demonstrated excellent project management experience.
- Participation in the Museum’s evening and weekend events, as well as local and overnight travel sometimes required.

**Physical Demands:** The physical demands described here are representative of those that are to be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable persons with disabilities to perform the essential functions. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to read, use speech or hear; use hands for computer usage, move around in the Museum galleries and occasionally travel for events.

**Salary Range:** $70,000 - $80,000

The Newark Museum of Art invites candidates with backgrounds or lived experiences in cultures within or adjacent to those of African Arts. If you are interested in this position, please submit your resume and cover letter to:

Human Resources  
The Newark Museum of Art  
49 Washington Street  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Fax: 973.642.0459  
Email: humanresources@newarkmuseumart.org

**The Newark Museum of Art is an equal opportunity employer.** As an organization committed to diversity and the representation of all voices, it considers applicants equally of race, gender identity or expression, color, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, age, physical disabilities, personal appearance, family responsibilities or national origin.