Curator

The International Museum of Art & Science (IMAS) seeks a Curator for the museum’s visual art and natural history objects including over 5,600 works of Mexican and Latin American Folk Art that comprise 51% of the permanent collections. The Curator will express their enthusiasm for lifelong learning through their knowledge of all art forms, styles, periods, and is willing to research, learn, discuss, and share with staff and the public. They will manage and care for the museum’s unique and extensive collections and build upon its strengths to increase access and awareness by curating exhibits from the permanent collections, through traveling exhibitions, and collaborative community exhibits. As a member of the senior leadership team, the Curator will support the museum’s strategic goals by engaging learners of all ages, involving the community, and creating exceptional museum experiences through the Curatorial Department’s work across the organization and with partners. IMAS staff accomplishments thrive through cross-departmental collaboration and communications. The museum’s core values of learning, cultural identity, building relationships, and nurturing curiosity and creativity guide staff at all levels in planning and implementing audience-focused experiences through exhibits, programs, and events.

Responsibilities

- Uphold AAM Accreditation standards for collections management, care, and access, provide efficient service to staff, research/scholars/community members seeking information and resources.
- Experience leading exhibit planning, integrating requirements from multiple departments into proposed plans for discussion, review, and approval, and demonstrated success in directing and monitoring contractors and partners through design, fabrication, and installation. Including leading the IMAS Project Team currently working on transforming the museum experience through exhibit development and comprehensive use of the permanent collections.
- Demonstrated commitment to using permanent collections to further a museum’s mission and vision and creates a welcome environment for community curation and audiences.
- Represents collections as subject matter expert and provides technical expertise and information to staff, key stakeholders, local community organizations and the media through outreach presentations, direct communications, etc.
- Manage and direct the work of the Curatorial Assistant/Exhibits Coordinator, interns, volunteers, partners, and contractors, and serve as staff liaison to the Board’s Curatorial Affairs Committee.
- Hold and maintain a collaborative work mindset, supporting staff to do the same and support meaningful evaluations that identify how Curatorial staff support the Museum’s mission and vision.
• Responsible for Curatorial staff evaluations and managing workloads to prioritize meeting deadlines and goals while preventing burnout.
• Flexibility, creativity, good humor, and strong problem-solving skills, with the ability to identify and achieve goals and objectives and meet multiple competing priorities.
• Prepare and manage annual department revenue and expense budgets for exhibits and collections.
• Recruits and supervises community guest curators and exhibit developers, overseeing contractors and deliverables, and increased digital/web access to the collection and exhibits overtime.
• Excellent speaking skills for public presentations, hosting donors and supporters in behind-the-scenes tours, and strong writing skills for communications, social media and supporting grants.
• Pursue professional development opportunities aligned with strategic plan and effectively cultivate and steward key stakeholders, strategic partners, peer institutions and other important organizational relationships.
• Create and support Exhibition and Collections plans in cooperation with the Executive Director, take a leadership role in strategic planning, actively participate in developing and upholding museum policies and procedures, and provide input to ensure effective decision-making.

Qualifications
• Comprehensive understanding of curatorial practices gained through study and/or experience. A Bachelor’s degree in a relevant content area preferred and a MA/MS in related field (i.e., anthropology, archaeology, art, science, museum studies, or history) is desirable.
• 4+ years of experience in museums, cultural institutions or companies that include a combination of exhibition planning, collections management/registrar, supervisory experience, and budget/project management (preferred leadership in AAM accredited museum and/or Smithsonian Affiliate Museum)
• Strong knowledge of AAM standards of accreditation and best practices.
• Demonstrate competency in museum systems, specifically Microsoft Office 365, PastPerfect, Adobe, and facility with operating building security systems.
• Outstanding written and oral communication skills; bilingual in Spanish and English is strongly preferred.
• Must be able to work a flexible schedule including nights and weekends.

Interested candidates must complete a job application, available for download online at www.theimasonline.com or available for pick up at the museum’s admission desk. Submission must be accompanied by resume with cover letter as well as 3 references. Complete application materials should be sent directly to Mary Garza Hinojosa at mgarza@theimasonline.com, or 1900 W. Nolana Ave., McAllen, TX 78504-4121. Please, no phone calls.
IMAS is committed to hiring qualified individuals without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, or national origin. IMAS is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants must be authorized to work in the United States.