

Curator of Exhibitions and Collections for the Harwood Museum of Art of the University of New Mexico

08.15.2019

The Harwood Museum of Art of the University of New Mexico is seeking a creative, team-oriented and audience-minded Curator of Exhibitions and Collections. The Curator will join the 20-person team of the Harwood Museum to lead all curatorial and collections functions of the Museum, located in Taos, New Mexico.

Founded in 1923, the Harwood Museum of Art is the second oldest museum in New Mexico. It has been part of the University of New Mexico (UNM) since 1935 but is located in the longstanding art colony of Taos, New Mexico and serves the community and its visitors as well as UNM. The Harwood Museum exhibits, collects and preserves historic and contemporary art and culture relevant to northern New Mexico. The Museum stimulates learning, creativity and research reinforcing the University of New Mexico's academic mission, while presenting Taos art to the world and world art to Taos. The Harwood Museum of Art is an American Alliance of Museums Accredited museum.

Spanning the 19th Century to present, the museum's 6,500 object collection documents the community's rich multicultural heritage and Taos' role in the development of seminal American art. The Harwood Museum has nine exhibition galleries, four of which are dedicated to changing exhibitions that reinforce the museum's mission. The permanent collection galleries focus on the key art influences relevant to Taos and northern New Mexico, featuring Hispano Traditional arts, Taos Society of Artists, Taos Moderns, and Contemporary. Among its most noteworthy collections are a permanent installation of seven works by Agnes Martin (1912–2004) and *Death Shrine* by Ken Price (1935–2012). The collection is digitized and managed with a state-of-the-art collections vault with the Gallery Systems' TMS Collection Management database.

As a member of an ambitious and collaborative team, the Curator will conceptualize, research, plan and implement exhibitions, publications, and other curatorial programs. This senior staff member will contribute to creative programming of the museum's collection, implement exhibitions in partnership with other organizations and produce original exhibitions. The Curator will research and provide creative interpretive text to highlight the curatorial mission of the Harwood and engage diverse audiences. Curator will participate in fundraising efforts for exhibitions, collections and the museum. The Curator supervises collections and preparatory staff to ensure that American Alliance of Museums (AAM) standards are upheld. A creative sense of exploration and commitment to teamwork are key to the museum's work environment and the Curator must be comfortable in an interactive, energetic workplace.

The University of New Mexico is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and educator.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Conceptualizes, develops and implements exceptional exhibition installations and museum-related public programs, and publications that are responsive to the local and regional audiences.
2. Coordinates guest-curated exhibitions, periodic touring exhibitions, outreach programs, and museum-related public programs/events.
3. Conducts research and writes content for publications and gallery text to advance scholarship in the field and enhance the museum's visibility and reputation to a broad audience.
4. Disseminates knowledge and research on the collections through publications and presentations at professional meetings.
5. Interacts with the regional, national, and international scholarly and museum community. Responds to research requests related to the collections, advises on loan agreements and ensures adherence to established policies and AAM Best Practices.
6. Develops a collecting plan for the focused growth of the collection in area of expertise and advises the Director and relevant committees on comprehensive strategic collecting plans.
7. Recommends and prioritizes acquisitions; negotiates repository agreements and proposed gifts to the museum's collections from potential donors.
8. In collaboration with the Collections Manager, advises on daily collections management activities, including the inventory, preservation, conservation, cataloging, and storing of incoming acquisitions and donations which may include art, artifacts, specimens and/or documentary records; advises on database development for respective collections.
9. Prepares budgets for projects; monitors use of time, materials, and staff to remain within budget.
10. Plans and develops strategies for generating funds and other resources for the department, including collaborating with the Director and Development staff in fundraising and grant writing, actively cultivate relationships with foundations, existing and potential donors, collectors and others.
11. Train lower lever staff, students, and/or volunteers.
12. Participates in short and long-term planning for the museum, participates in staff meetings, serves on standing and working committees, and writes annual report.
13. May supervise lower graded staff and/or student employees.
14. Performs miscellaneous job-related duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Master's Degree in Art History, Museum Studies or related field required, PhD preferred.
- Minimum three years of related work experience in museums or exhibition venues.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Demonstrated background in the art of the Southwest, especially 20th and 21st century.
- Broad intellectual and curatorial interests and a deep commitment to the public.
- A record of successful experience in the development and management of creative and innovative exhibitions and programs from conception to completion and through evaluation.
- Ability to work on a peer level with staff and must possess effective written, oral and visual communication skills.
- Experience presenting talks and lectures based on collections and exhibits.
- Experience and success in fundraising.
- Ability to establish networks with relevant regional artists, collectors, galleries and arts/cultural organizations.
- Experience creating interpretive materials and programs for public and academic engagement and its subsequent evaluation for effectiveness.
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and to working with broadly diverse communities.

How to Apply:

All applicants must apply through UNM Jobs. <https://hr.unm.edu/>. Under Staff Careers, search Harwood to find posting or follow direct link to the job posting here:

<https://unm.csod.com/ats/careersite/JobDetails.aspx?id=10127&source=Indeed&site=13>

Potential candidates will be notified for interviews by mid-October. Top candidates will be expected to visit Taos for interviews and a public presentation. Anticipated hire date, January 2019.