

NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

The New Britain Museum of American Art (NBMAA) is the first and oldest museum dedicated solely to American art in the country, tracing its roots to the New Britain Institute, an organization established in 1853. The formal collection began in 1903 with the purchase of a group of “original modern oil paintings,” and subsequent purchases, made with advice from New York museums and galleries, further defined “modern” to mean American works of art. The collection now numbers approximately 8,300 paintings, works on paper, sculptures, photographs, and illustrations by American artists. With particular strengths in colonial portraiture, the Hudson River School, American Impressionism, and the Ash Can School, not to mention the important mural series *The Arts of Life in America* by Thomas Hart Benton, the museum relies heavily on its permanent collection for exhibitions and programming, yet also displays a significant number of borrowed shows and work by emerging artists. The singular focus on American art and its panoramic view of American artistic achievement make the New Britain Museum of American Art a significant teaching resource available to the local, regional, and national public.

In 2015, the Museum underwent an Art & Education Expansion to further increase the Museum's art and education capacity. Designed by Ann Beha Architects, the expansion added a new wing of 17,346 sq. ft., providing new galleries to be used for the display of the permanent collection, new exhibitions, tours and programming; tripling art studio space for educational offerings; and updating and growing the Museum's popular ArtLab, which serves our youngest Museum-goers. The new educational spaces have been a great success and ensure the Museum's ability to offer a full spectrum of programming for visitors of all ages and backgrounds. Over the past year, the Museum has attracted 10,000 participants for school tours, another 3,000 for walk-in tours, 3,000 for infant and teen *Nurture for Art* programs, and many others. The increase in square footage and participants reflects our mission to be one of America's most welcoming, distinguished, dynamic, and educationally ambitious art museums and to be one of the nation's most effective centers for learning about art by creating an optimal learning environment for the Museum's diverse audiences. These are exciting times for the Museum and its visitors, and, with ambitious growth plans for the future, we are seeking to recruit an outstanding and creative Director of Education.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position: Director of Education
Reports to: Deputy Director of the Museum

Under general direction of the Director and Deputy Director, the Director of Education is responsible for the direction and management of the museum's education department and its education functions.

The New Britain Museum of American Art seeks candidates for the position of Director of Education. A key member of staff, the Director of Education is responsible for providing creative and strategic leadership to oversee all aspects of the museum's multidisciplinary educational programming, working collaboratively with other core staff and outside collaborators to develop, deliver, and manage a wide range of interpretive Museum functions that will serve visiting school groups, attract and create a meaningful experience for adults and children, promote the unique resources of the NBMAA, and raise the profile of the Museum. The Director of Education ensures that all interpretive and educational programs are of uniformly high quality and accessible for the broadest and most diverse public. The Director of Education is the administrative and instructional lead for the Education Department, taking

primary responsibility for operational planning, budgeting, staff and docent training, program delivery, and follow-up evaluation. The position reports to the Deputy Director and oversees a department of two full-time and two part-time staff.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Program Administration:

- Provides strategic leadership for the Education Department and directs the development and delivery of educational programs and activities to foster visitor learning and engagement.
- Leads development, growth, and vision for all studio programs.
- Establishes short-term and long-term goals and objectives for the Education Department in consultation with the Director and Deputy Director.
- Leads, supports, guides, and models best practices around arts and culture education for the Department and Museum and fosters a working culture of continuous growth and improvement for all educational programs.
- Ensures the program research, development, and evaluation are conducted according to nationally accepted standards.
- Develops and monitors the Department budget in cooperation with the Finance/HR Director and Deputy Director.
- As needed, represents the Education Department in Committee and Board of Trustee meetings and prepares written and verbal reports on Department's activities, strategies, and budget.
- Serves as staff liaison for the Education Committee.

Program Coordination:

- Oversees, contributes to, and supports staff in Education and other Departments in developing the interpretive content of educational and studio programs, events, publications, and online resources.
- Creates and implements innovative, insightful and inclusive symposia, lectures, and gallery talks related to the permanent collection and special exhibitions.
- Plans and works with Education and Visitor Services staff to implement educational programs and school tours for new and existing audiences.
- Establishes tour guidelines for all group visits.
- Supervises the development and organization of adult studio programming.
- In collaboration with Development Department, writes, edits, and organizes materials for grant applications and foundation requests to support educational programs.
- Develops personal knowledge of permanent collection to enhance implementation of educational programming.
- Works with Exhibitions staff to develop interpretive programs and resources for exhibitions and the creation of educational components and materials in the galleries.
- Provides supervisory oversight and evaluation of docent recruitment, training, and coordination.
- Develops relationships with other area museum educators, teachers, university colleagues, and community members in order to foster communication between the Museum and its community, maintain existing partnerships, and establish new collaborative opportunities.
- Works with the Museum's Marketing Department to effectively promote educational programs to new and existing audiences.

- Serves as administrator for ALTRU database and oversees the collection of program statistics for all education-related activities, reporting on them as required.
- As needed, works evenings and weekends for educational events and programs.
- Fulfills other duties and responsibilities as required.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- M.A. in Education, Art Education, Museum Studies, Art History, or related field, with concentration in Museum Education preferred or significant professional experience in this area.
- 5 years of experience working with education or public programs in a museum setting, with proven ability to conceptualize innovative public programs.
- 3 years of experience in a supervisory role.
- Administrative and grant-writing experience.
- Strong interpersonal skills and proven ability to communicate well both orally and in written form with visitors and colleagues of different ages, interests, and backgrounds.
- Knowledge of current museum and informal educational practices, as well as visitor studies.
- Ability to effectively supervise staff while contributing to a positive, collaborative, and healthy work environment.
- Ability to work closely with Museum docents and volunteers.
- Research, writing, editing, and information management skills.
- Proven project planning, coordination, and evaluation skills.
- Strong organizational and scheduling skills.
- Proven ability to work well within deadlines on multiple and varied projects simultaneously.
- Facility with standard computing applications required.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, CV or resume, and writing sample (e.g., gallery guide, museum newsletter article, or lesson plan), limited to 5 pages, to bellt@nbmaa.org.

The NBMAA is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, status as a protected veteran, or status as a qualified individual with a disability. The NBMAA welcomes individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas who embrace and value diversity and inclusivity.