



The Reach Gallery Museum  
CURATOR OF ART & VISUAL CULTURE  
Full Time: 35 hrs/wk  
Salary Range: \$65,000- \$72,500 plus benefits

Compensation package includes extended medical and dental coverage, generous vacation time, a flexible schedule, and the ability to contribute to a matched RSP program.

## Overview

The Curator of Art & Visual Culture plays a lead role in shaping the artistic vision of The Reach by developing exhibitions, public programming, and publications related to creative practice and associated forms of cultural production.

The Curator of Art & Visual Culture works closely with a highly motivated team to devise an ambitious, visitor-centered exhibition program and to plan engaging experiences that inspire and challenge audiences. The Curator of Art & Visual Culture must be eager to build meaningful relationships with diverse communities across the region, and to consider how these audiences will be best served, challenged, and represented by the exhibition program.

The candidate will develop three thematic seasons of exhibitions annually as well as associated and interdisciplinary programming. This position provides senior artistic leadership and direction to the organization and is also responsible for the oversight of some capacity-building and curatorial training initiatives that cultivate emerging creative professionals in the region.

Our ideal candidate is a hands-on leader who is passionate about community-building through the arts, and has an exciting vision for responsive, ethical, and forward-thinking curatorial practice in one of Canada's fastest-growing and most diverse cities.

This is a full-time position (35 hours per week). The compensation package includes extended medical and dental coverage, generous vacation time, a flexible schedule, and the ability to contribute to a matched RSP program. Core work hours are between 10 am-4 pm Monday to Friday with some flexibility to work outside these hours as needed to achieve the goals of the position.

The Reach strives to create a staff that is as diverse as our community and encourages applications from candidates who are IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA+, persons with disabilities, and new Canadians.

## Responsibilities

### *Exhibition Program:*

- Work with colleagues at The Reach to provide strategic leadership for short- and long-range exhibition planning with a focus on community benefit, curatorial rigor, visitor engagement, ecological and economic sustainability, and leveraging the unique interdisciplinary quality of the Gallery Museum
- Act as the content lead for art exhibitions. This includes but is not limited to:
  - Conduct studio visits and curatorial research to identify potential artists and exhibitions
  - Serve as a partner to guest curators and other curatorial staff (e.g. Curator of Historical Collections) in the exhibition development process
  - Co-ordinate the recruitment and review of exhibition proposals, artist portfolios, and guest curatorial proposals
  - Identify and oversee the presentation of touring exhibitions
  - Coordinate and write grant applications to support exhibitions and related projects
  - Work closely with the Assistant Curator to manage timelines and processes for the installation and deinstallation of exhibition seasons
  - Support the Assistant Curator in coordinating the loan, registration, conservation, logistics, shipping, storage of artworks and exhibitions as necessary
  - Write and/or coordinate writing of all exhibition-related texts
  - Contribute to and/or review all exhibition-related media and promotional writing
  - Coordinate and provide content for exhibition-related programs and events (artist talks, panel discussions, workshops, etc.)
  - Keep, maintain, and update exhibition project records including exhibition files, contracts and agreements, artist bio and contact files, etc.
- Research costs and prepare exhibition budgets for approval and work within the approved budgetary guidelines
- Work closely with the Executive Director and other team members to continually evaluate and improve the structure and success of The Reach's exhibitions and programs
- Stay abreast of current curatorial trends, attend relevant events at galleries and other cultural institutions, maintain an awareness of trends and shifts in the field
- Develop innovative ways for exhibitions to live and grow throughout their run at The Reach and beyond

### *Interpretive Programs:*

- Act as the lead for exhibition-related public programs, events, and activities to meet attendance and participation goals.
- Anticipate and overcome barriers to participation through early and meaningful inclusion

- In partnership with the Curator of Learning & Community Engagement, assist in the development of educational initiatives and identify and recruit partners for education programming
- Work closely with the Curator of Learning & Community Engagement to provide research materials, tours, and additional interpretive content for staff, docents, facilitators, and volunteers responsible for the delivery of classes, programs, and workshops

***Administration/Development:***

- Participate in senior management activities as appropriate including policy development, planning, budgeting, and scheduling
- Work closely with the Executive Director and development staff to secure private and public funding support (e.g. grant writing, contributing to sponsorship briefs)
- Submit impact reports and attendance statistics to evaluate successes and weaknesses of exhibitions and related programs
- Act as a spokesperson for The Reach on exhibition-related matters
- Provide leadership for The Reach in the absence of the Executive Director

**Relationships**

- Work closely with colleagues to maintain a respectful, collegial, and enjoyable work environment
- Participate in and/or supervise educational initiatives at The Reach in its capacity as an incubator for emerging talent in the region (e.g. the Emerge program, internships, etc.)
- Maintain and develop relationships with diverse local communities to ensure that these communities are reflected in the programming
- Continue to build positive relationships with new and existing funders, sponsors, and donors
- Act as an ambassador for The Reach at all levels of public engagement

**Qualifications**

Education & Experience:

- The ideal candidate will have a graduate-level degree in art history, curatorial studies, visual arts, cultural studies, museum studies or a discipline relevant to the visual arts. Those with comparable training and substantial cultural sector experience will also be considered
- At least five years of curatorial experience with increasing responsibility

Requirements:

- Substantial knowledge of Canadian and contemporary art movements and practices and the willingness to experiment outside of their strictures

- The ability to lead with ease; personable and diplomatic in working with diverse constituencies with a track record of inspiring participation from partners, artists, and community members
- Effective planning, supervising, and problem-solving skills, the ability to manage multiple projects and competing deadlines, and to complete tasks efficiently and to a high standard
- Strong organizational and administrative skills, proficiency with computing including Microsoft Office, Wordpress, and online applications
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills. A publication record will be considered favourably
- A demonstrated track record for successful grant writing
- An enthusiastic attitude and an energetic desire to work with colleagues, artists, volunteers, students, and community members to create something extraordinary. A good sense of humour is considered an asset
- An understanding of the necessity and vitality of working with artists and publics of diverse ethnicity, race, age, and cultural affinity. Proficiency in a second language considered an asset
- Flexibility to adapt to a changing schedule driven by project and event deadlines; the ability to work evenings and weekends according to the demands of the position and to travel occasionally
- Experience with, or willingness to learn, departmental budgeting and financial management
- A valid driver's license and ability to pass a criminal record check

We strongly encourage applicants who reflect the diversity of our community to apply.

### **To Apply**

Submit a cover letter and résumé by email to [lschneider@thereach.ca](mailto:lschneider@thereach.ca) as a single PDF by **5pm on Friday October 28, 2022**. Please use "Curator of Art & Visual Culture" as the subject line of your email.

The posting will remain open until filled.

We thank all applicants for their interest, however only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

### **About The Reach**

The Reach Gallery Museum is located on Stó:lō Téméxw, in the unceded territory of the Semá:th and Mathxwí First Nations. The Reach is a board-led not-for-profit organization and a registered charity. The award-winning contemporary art gallery, local history museum, and regional archives was established in 2008 and operates in a LEEDS certified facility that features over 6,000 square feet of fully accessible exhibition space. The Reach presents three dynamic seasons of contemporary art and history exhibitions annually and is a hive of education and public programming activity. Abbotsford is one of the most diverse, fastest growing communities

in Canada. Within this exciting context, The Reach strives to build a program that both reflects and challenges the interests, desires, and attitudes of our community.