

# MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS FOR THE ARTS

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EXECUTIVE SEARCH • PLANNING • ORGANIZATIONAL ANALYSIS

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## **Job Description** **Chief of Curatorial Affairs and Public Programs (CCAPP)** **Museum of the African Diaspora** **San Francisco, California**

### **Background**

The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) a contemporary art museum, celebrates Black cultures, ignites challenging conversations, and inspires learning through the global lens of the African Diaspora. MoAD is based in San Francisco and plays a vital role in the local arts community. MoAD is uniquely positioned as one of the few museums in the world focused exclusively on African Diaspora culture and on presenting the rich cultural heritage of the people of Africa and of African descendant cultures all across the globe.

MoAD opened its doors in 2005, debuting a gorgeous modern museum designed by the nationally renowned Freelon Group to showcase art and culture through the lens of the African Diaspora.

The museum underwent a significant renovation in 2015, where the gallery and content focus shifted to featuring contemporary art with a significant highlight on Black artists, art, and curators. Significant exhibitions included: *Dandy Lion: (Re)Articulating Black Masculine Identity*, *A Matter of Fact* featuring the art of Toyin Ojih Odutol, *Otra Mas* a photography exhibition on the legacy of Carnival in San Francisco, and *Black Refractions*. Marking its 15th anniversary in 2021, the museum continues to be a unique, cultural arts staple in the San Francisco Bay Area community. The museum is looking forward to reopening in fall 2021 with exhibitions featuring Ghanaian painter Amoako Boafo and Malawi-born, Johannesburg-based artist Billie Zangewa. Both are among Africa's most important contemporary artists working on the international stage today.

To learn more about MoAD - <https://www.moadsf.org/>

## MoAD Today

Unphased by a pandemic world, the museum successfully shifted all programming to the online space and developed a new and exciting digital voice, connecting the museum with virtual audiences.

Highlights of the Museum's unique programs include:

- *Conversations Across the Diaspora*
- *Community Resilience* and *BLATANT* which programs rose out of the Black Lives Matter movement, engaging and healing the museum's hurting community.
- The museum's education programs also took flight with a new set of virtual classrooms. *In the Artist's Studio* gave artists a platform to show their artworks, have thoughtful conversations, and demonstrate their artistic processes.
- The *MoAD Lit* programs featuring the *African Book Club*, *Authors in Conversation*, and *Open Mic* gave the museum's community an opportunity to read, listen, and discuss African literature from home.
- The bi-monthly *Open Mic Night* continued to amplify community voices by engaging over 300 unique poets, artists, and musicians.
- Other notable programs include *The Rhythmic Roots of Afro-Latin Jazz* with John Santos, *Art History Crash Course* with Dr. Jacqueline Francis, and a conversation with activist and scholar Angela Davis and artist Isaac Julien.

Despite being closed to the public, MoAD was proud to exhibit an online exhibition *Meet Us Quickly: Painting for Justice from Prison*, curated by San Quentin incarcerate Rahsaan Thomas.

## Summary of Opportunity

Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) seeks an experienced and creative Chief of Curatorial Affairs and Public Programs with a professional background in contemporary art, and experience working with museums that hold work from the African Diaspora and artists, art fairs and galleries from the African Diaspora. In partnership with the Executive Director, this team member will develop and execute the curatorial strategy and direction for MoAD and be responsible for the overall management and execution of the museum's curatorial vision, including its exhibitions, publications, public and educational programs as well as playing an important role in outreach and communications. This position reports to the Executive Director and is part of the executive team. This position will build on existing relationships with donors, artists, and dealers, and establish new connections with professionals in this sphere, inclusive of colleges and universities, to further the mission and vision of the museum. This individual will commit to establishing a presence as a key contemporary arts leader in the San Francisco Bay area, United States, and internationally.

The ideal candidate will be a demonstrated leader in their field, with progressive experience or curatorial accomplishments in the Diasporic, African, or Black arts realm. This position should be exceedingly well organized, highly professional, flexible, proactive, able to work well under pressure, and have excellent written and verbal communication skills. They should be able to build a collaborative, trusting, and confident environment with stakeholders, MoAD staff, and

the Board of Directors by being a key partner in building the culture and community of the museum on an internal and external scale.

This is a full-time, exempt position, with work performed primarily on-site. While some work may be performed remotely, candidates must be physically located in the Bay Area.

## **Key Responsibilities**

### **Exhibitions**

- Oversees the overall exhibition schedule, including traveling exhibitions and accompanying catalogues, and prepare exhibitions of varying degrees each year exclusive to MoAD, as well as others originating from other institutions
- Conducts research and oversees the preparation of ancillary educational materials for exhibitions, catalogue essays, reports, and digital content
- Strategically plans and proposes exhibitions at least 3 years in advance for approval by the Executive Director and Board of Directors. Exhibition budgets must be developed in advance to ensure accurate budget projections and fundraising ability
- Monitors exhibition contracts and implementation timelines; schedules and oversees the installation of exhibitions; and maintains relations with exhibition donors, lenders and artists
- Fully integrate technology into exhibitions and programs

### **Leadership**

- Maintains knowledge of the current African Diaspora art market while developing and strengthening relationships with various members of the arts community, nationally and internationally, including artists, collectors, curators, educators, journalists, and leaders of other related institutions. Funds are available for travel
- Establishes curatorial institutional policies and procedures to ensure a consistent and standard, yet innovative, approach and process
- Creates an environment that encourages creativity and originality when exploring new relationships and partnering with artists central to MoAD's mission
- Nurtures a collaborative culture, both internally and externally, so that there is effective communication throughout, ensuring efficiency and accountability measures are in place
- Collaborates with MoAD's Executive Director and Development Director to identify and cultivate relationships with donors and prospects for MoAD and provides guidance for grant applications and other fundraising activities, as needed
- Leads a seasoned staff in the Exhibitions, Public Programs and Education Departments and ensures a seamless integration of work amongst the Departments
- Actively solicit loans of appropriate works of art and contribute to the further development and overall organization of the database housing this information
- Oversees acknowledgment of lenders, and other appropriate stakeholders, as required.

- Develops and executes on an annual publications plan and schedule, both hard copy and virtually

### **Communication and Marketing**

- Establishes a MoAD presence and strategy at domestic and international art fairs
- Develops and participates in public programs in person and virtually
- Cultivates conversations and actively engages in public dialogue related to the art and culture of the African Diaspora, establishing presence as an expert in the field
- Represents MoAD in professional associations, conferences, and other scholarly meetings and events
- Excellent organizational and communication skills including a mature writing ability

### **Required Education, Experience, and Skills**

- Five years of demonstrated relevant experience, with preference for progressive curatorial accomplishments in the Diasporic, African, or Black arts realm and experience and understanding of contemporary art, Black art and culture, and the African Diaspora arts community
- Advanced degree in Art History, Curatorial Studies, Digital Culture, or related field desirable, but not required to apply
- Successful track record of exhibitions, lectures, and/or publication
- Demonstrated interpersonal and leadership skills; ability to work diplomatically with others and a commitment to teamwork and collaboration
- An appetite for social engagement with a wide range of audiences and comfort with public speaking
- Experience prioritizing and project managing multiple projects

### **Desired Personal Attributes**

- Well-organized, self-starter with a “can do” attitude. This role will involve lots of multitasking and thinking outside the box
- A high emotional and social maturity and a team player
- Proven ability to handle confidential information with discretion, be adaptable to various competing demands, and demonstrate the highest level of relationship management
- Shrewd decision-making ability, with an ability to prioritize and attention to detail
- Demonstrated capacity to achieve high performance goals and meet deadlines in a fast-paced, high-pressure environment
- Forward looking thinker, who actively seeks opportunities and proposes solutions to continuously improve systems, communications, and programs

### **Compensation and Benefits**

A comprehensive benefits package will be a part of the total compensation, including paid time off (vacation, sick, holiday), 401(k), FSA, pre-tax commuter benefits, and health insurance

including medical, dental, vision, and chiropractic, with a generous 90% of employee premiums and 60% of dependent premiums paid by the Museum for our base plan.

### **Diversity**

What we look for in the Museum's staff: the ability to imagine, the energy to create and explore new ideas and the freedom of spirit to celebrate the Museum's diverse community. MoAD is committed to diversity in its programming and creating an inclusive work culture and environment that is reflective of the San Francisco Bay Area. MoAD is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, age, national origin, protected veteran status, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law. Pursuant to the San Francisco Fair Chance Ordinance, MoAD will consider for employment qualified applicants with arrest and conviction records.

### **Procedure for Application**

Diane Frankel of Management Consultants for the Arts is the consultant assisting the Museum of the African Diaspora with this search. To be considered for this position, prospective applicants must submit pertinent information and attach a current resume, a one-two page narrative describing interest and experience, and three professional references utilizing MCA's online application system: <https://mcaonline.com/searches/curatorial-programs-moad>

Once all applicant materials have been submitted online, applicants will receive confirmation of their submission via the email address provided in their application.