



Position Announcement: Curator & Folklorist

Overview:

The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, Salisbury University seeks applicants for the full-time position of Curator and Folklorist. The Curator and Folklorist will build upon and expand the Ward Museum's successful Lower Shore Traditions folklife program, which researches, interprets, and supports regional cultural heritage and traditional arts. The Curator and Folklorist is also responsible for overseeing the Exhibits Department—developing the changing exhibits program, and developing and participating in a wide range of Museum events and activities.

This position provides an opportunity to help deepen and extend the programming of a premier material culture-focused museum, and to sustain folklife infrastructure by developing links between communities, individual artists, and a variety of organizations and institutions.

Requirements:

- Graduate level training in public folklore, cultural and/or applied anthropology, museum studies, American studies, public history, art history, or a related discipline
- Ethnographic fieldwork experience, including strong photography, video, and audio documentation skills
- Exhibition research and development experience
- Experience developing and delivering public programming—e.g., talks, festivals. Training in or familiarity with museum interpretation strongly preferred.
- Demonstrated ability to write for and edit publications, and to promote activities in print and through social media
- Successful experience writing and managing grants
- Knowledge of or interest in cultural traditions, bird carving, decoys, maritime culture, and/or other aspects of cultural and natural heritage

Additionally, candidates must be willing to conduct outreach and work in collaboration with diverse regional and cultural communities. Applicants must demonstrate initiative, flexibility, and a willingness to adapt to and facilitate a team-based work environment. Applicants must possess strong organizational, writing, and communication skills applicable to a variety of audiences; confidently manage multiple tasks concurrently; and be comfortable working both independently and as part of a team. Applicants should be proficient in computer usage and demonstrate exemplary interpersonal skills. Prior experience in a non-profit educational setting preferred.

Familiarity with PastPerfect Museum Software, Adobe Photoshop, and general archive management preferred but not required.

Job Duties:

- Lead the Ward Museum’s changing exhibition program, showcasing exhibits that celebrate art, nature, and tradition—often in collaboration with regional tradition bearers and artists.
- Plan and conduct regional ethnographic fieldwork with traditional artists and culture bearers
- Sustain and expand the Lower Shore Traditions public folklife program (research, folklife workshops, performances, presentations/demonstrations, lectures, etc.).
- Work in collaboration with other Museum departments to develop interpretive planning and exhibit/event interpretation
- Act as the Museum’s primary liaison to the Maryland Traditions program of the Maryland State Arts Council, including participation in the planning, development, and evaluation of Maryland Traditions initiatives.
- Oversee Museum collections (objects and archive)
- Grant writing/management
- Oversee the Registrar, and one graduate assistant per year, as well as additional interns

Compensation:

Salary commensurate with experience. Employer sponsored benefits available.

How to Apply:

Please send CV or resume (no more than three pages) with cover letter to wardadmin@salisbury.edu with the subject line “Curator/Folklorist Application: [your last name]”

Application review will begin on June 17, 2019. Position open until filled.

About the Ward Museum:

Nestled next to Schumaker Pond in Salisbury, MD, and surrounded by wildlife in the heart of the Atlantic Flyway, the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, Salisbury University features the world’s largest and finest public collection of decorative and antique decoys. The Museum is a premier facility for the study of art, nature, and tradition for youth, educators, scholars, artists, and communities it serves. The Ward Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is run by the Ward Foundation, Inc., an affiliated foundation of Salisbury University.

To learn more about the Ward Museum please visit us online at www.wardmuseum.org or @WardMuseum on social media. The Ward Museum/Ward Foundation, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.