

CURATOR, URBAN STUDIES AND DIGITAL INITIATIVES FOR WORLD-RENOWNED MUSEUM

The Guggenheim Museum has always taken an innovative approach to its engagement with architecture. The institution has evolved since the articulation of its original curatorial mission, which focused exclusively on the collection and display of painting and sculpture, to recognize the transformative effect of architecture and design. Instead of compiling collections or archives related to the subject, the museum commissioned Frank Lloyd Wright to design its landmark building in New York City. Years later, during the tenure of Director Thomas Krens, the museum consistently involved major architects such as Zaha Hadid, Frank Gehry, I.M. Pei, and Jean Nouvel, among others, to design special exhibitions, bringing a strong architectural imprint onto the programming. In 1997, the Guggenheim commissioned Frank Gehry to design the now-historic Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and he is currently working on the future Guggenheim Museum in Abu Dhabi. In recent years the Guggenheim has expanded and refined its architectural programming to encompass an investigation into issues related to contemporary urban reality within a global context. With groundbreaking, off-site initiatives such as the recent BMW Guggenheim Lab and *stillspotting* (2011-2013) inserted into the very fabric of local and regional cities as well as robust online outreach, the Guggenheim has become a think tank for investigations into the socio-economic and cultural implications of contemporary urban development.

The Guggenheim is now looking to hire a Curator for Urban Studies and Digital Initiatives, who can further articulate and advance the museum's mission to be an agent of social good through its rich array of public programming, both on and off-site and on-line. The new curator will devise a plan for developing the museum's engagement with urban studies, technology, architecture, and design beyond what has already been so successfully accomplished. This will require a vision that looks beyond traditional exhibition programming to more discursive models such as think tanks, public forums, online content development, and the establishment of rich networks for intellectual exchange around the world.

Key Responsibilities:

In addition to defining the next stage of the Guggenheim's engagement with architecture, urban studies and technology, the position will require leadership on the following projects under the direction of the Director's office and Chief Curator:

A. Guggenheim Museum Helsinki:

The Guggenheim Foundation is about to launch an international architectural competition for the design of a new museum in Helsinki as a new addition to the Guggenheim global constellation. This position will be responsible for helping to develop and promote the programmatic elements of the museum that will take into account the existing cultural landscape in Helsinki. This will require a direct

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engagement with content leaders in the arts, architecture and design communities in Helsinki, New York and other relevant locations.

For the architectural competition itself, this position will coordinate all curatorial aspects of the project within the Guggenheim, working with outside consultants and an in-house team. This will entail, but will not be limited to, the following:

Competition (responsibilities will vary depending on starting date):

- Review and develop architecture competition brief.
- Advise on jury member selection to represent the Guggenheim Foundation.
- Develop rationale for jury member selection and provide Jury member bios and information.
- Coordinate Jury member communications with Directors' office and Chief Curator.
- Review online competition website.
- Develop a one-year calendar of public engagement programs in Helsinki to gather public support and raise the public profile of a potential Guggenheim Helsinki (June 2014 through June 2015).
- Participate in public forums, debates and events around the Guggenheim Helsinki in other pre-established Helsinki platforms to represent the Guggenheim's curatorial and content role in the development of a Guggenheim Helsinki.
- As a spokesperson for the curatorial aspects of the project, work with media, community, and government organizations, give interviews, and provide content for digital communications.

Related exhibitions:

- Develop all aspects of a Helsinki-based exhibition with shortlisted architects together with architectural consultants.
- Develop all aspects of a Helsinki-based exhibition with competition winner together with architectural consultants.

Communications:

- Work closely with the Guggenheim External Affairs communications team and its public relations consultants to shape key project messages and tone and to develop architecture competition launch concept.
- Work closely with Guggenheim External Affairs Interactive and Marketing teams to develop all architecture competition online and digital materials and websites, including crafting and commissioning content for blogs, videos, and other digital formats.

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B. Collection Center:

The Guggenheim is about to embark on the construction of a collection center that will consolidate its staff and art storage into one efficient, multiuse building with a dynamic public programming component that will herald the museum's further engagement with its local audiences in New York City.

The curator will participate on the planning task force for this endeavor, which will consider the possibility of an architectural competition and will research productive and hospitable office space designs so that the project will ensure the Guggenheim's reputation for being a visionary architectural patron. The curator will also participate in sustained public outreach in order to understand and better communicate with the local community in which the site is located. As plans develop, the curator will contribute to the formulation of the public programming component of the project.

C. Digital Initiatives:

The Guggenheim has been at the forefront of museums' efforts to expand their outreach through online platforms and social media outlets. With a robust, content-rich website and a sustained public voice through various social media venues, the Guggenheim has established itself in the digital realm. It is now necessary for the museum to define and activate the next phase of its digital engagement to achieve a leadership role in museum digital fluency. This will require extensive research into millennial and broader digital culture and its adaptation of evolving technologies. The curator will work closely with staff throughout the museum responsible for web, social media, apps and other technology content platforms to coordinate such research and to collectively articulate a plan for how the Guggenheim will enhance and extend its digital activities to reach a broader audience in order to augment its content sharing, and, perhaps, most importantly, to create platforms for rich public exchange. The curator will work with the Director's office and Chief Curator to create and help run a digital think tank comprising experts in various technology fields to advise the museum in this undertaking.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- MA or equivalent in Architectural History or Urban Studies
- Established experience in an architectural office or museum architectural department
- Expertise in the intersection between technology and design
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, with demonstrated publication history
- Ability to work collaboratively across disciplines
- Demonstrated experience in public programming and convening
- Demonstrated experience working effectively with other cultures

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The Guggenheim offers a competitive salary and excellent medical, dental, life, disability, and retirement plan coverage. Our staff also enjoys generous vacation, sick leave and personal days, access to a variety of cultural institutions, discounts to museum stores, and a stimulating and collegial work environment.

Qualified applicants please send your resume and cover letter, including salary expectations, to employment@guggenheim.org. Indicate the job title “Curator, Urban Studies and Digital Initiatives” in the subject line.

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation is an equal opportunity employer.