



Curator, Case Research Laboratory Collection (Full-time, one year)

Position Summary:

The Cayuga Museum of History and Art (CMHA) engages the community to appreciate local history, promotes the arts, and educates individuals about the invention of sound on film through the operation of the Museum, Case Research Laboratory, and Carriage House Theater. The Case Research Laboratory houses a permanent exhibit on the story of Theodore Case, the man who (among other major inventions) introduced sound film to the world. Visitors to the Cayuga Museum can explore this space and the story of Theodore Case through guided tours, a popular part of the museum experience. This tour has remained largely unchanged in its nearly thirty-year span, and currently revolves exclusively around the viewpoint of Case. As part of the Cayuga Museum's ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, the Museum will hire a one-year Curator dedicated to advancing the Museum's goal of telling a more inclusive story about the invention of sound film. The Curator must be passionate about ensuring that museums represent the community's full diversity and committed to expanding the narrative traditionally told by the Cayuga Museum to include more about the historically underrepresented communities who were involved in the invention and impacted by its creation.

The Curator will explore the Case Research Lab collection and determine the individual accounts and stories of the development of sound film and how the result of this work affects the lives of people today in ways that are not traditionally discussed. This project aims to represent the wide-reaching impact of sound film through the stories we tell and to permanently create a new method of sharing the history of this space through a revised guided tour. The goal of this work is to expand our audience and increase access to this remarkable historical resource for all who visit. The Cayuga Museum is committed to building a diverse and inclusive workforce. We strongly encourage members of historically underrepresented communities to apply.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Explore the Case Research Lab archival collection and determine the alternative narratives and stories that are not currently shared within our guided tours.
- Lead guided tours of the Case Research Lab.
- Work with Museum staff to identify and then cultivate relationships with institutions in Central New York and the Finger Lakes Region who may possess similar collections related to early 20th century film.
- Determine opportunities for interactive experiences within the Laboratory, particularly involving hands-on, self-guided, video, or audio possibilities.
- Develop a formal script for the tour that will then be used for its implementation going forward.

Qualifications:

- Eligible candidates must have completed (or be near completion of) a graduate program in social sciences, humanities, museum studies, or related fields by May 2022 and must have availability to work full time.
- Applicants must have excellent written and verbal communication skills with the ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Prior experience with museum interpretation a plus.
- Experience and willingness to work closely, respectfully, and effectively with members of the public as well as staff, volunteers, and board members is required.
- The ideal applicant will have experience having worked with members of historically underrepresented communities in the accomplishment of a project.
- Scholarly research or interest in film history and/or the early 20th century is a plus.

Requirements:

- Travel will be a component of the project, so candidates must possess and maintain a valid driver's license.
- Requires moderate physical activity. Climbing stairs necessary to access collections storage and other buildings without climate control. Occasional lifting of supplies and materials less than 40 pounds.
- Candidate must be fully vaccinated. Reasonable requests for accommodation will be made in accordance with Federal and New York State Law.

Additional Details:

This is a full-time position for one year only. The Curator will receive a \$40,000 annual salary and benefits package. Payment will be made on a biweekly basis.

Employment Dates: June 20, 2022 – June 16, 2023 (Dates can be relatively flexible)

Schedule: Tuesday – Saturday, some evenings required.

Candidates should send application packages as PDFs with “*Case Research Lab Curator*” in the subject line to Kirsten Gosch, Executive Director, at kirsten@cayugamuseum.org:

- A cover letter indicating your interest in the position and specifics as to what attracted you to the work, and your qualifications for the position. Please indicate in full your experience or interest in exploring early film history and historically underrepresented narratives.
- A resume
- A one-page writing sample
- Two reference contacts

Application Deadline: Monday, May 9, 2022

The Cayuga Museum of History and Art (CMHA), located in Auburn, New York, engages the community to appreciate local history, promotes the arts, and educates individuals about the invention of sound on film through the operation of the Museum, Case Research Laboratory, and Carriage House Theater.

CMHA is an Equal Opportunity Employer with respect to all applicants, employees, and interns. We recruit, hire, train, and promote without discrimination due to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, and any other status protected by applicable federal, state, or local law. CMHA supports the Americans with Disabilities Act and will take such measures insofar as possible to assist employees who need accommodation. Reference checks are conducted for all positions.

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