Position: Curator of African Collections and African American Art

The Albany Museum of Art has entered an unprecedented and exciting time of growth and change. As the AMA prepares for its future move downtown and actively offers more original, inclusive, and thematically diverse exhibitions and public programs, the Museum is diligently looking to expand its support staff, specifically through hiring an astute and engaging Curator who will be dedicated to exhibition curatorship and collections management. Working closely with the Executive Director (ED), the Director of Curatorial Affairs, and the Director of Education & Public Programming (Educator), this individual will support all aspects of both an internal and external exhibition schedule.

About the Museum:

The Albany Museum of Art has its origins in the early 1960s when Albany, Georgia residents formed the Southwest Georgia Art Association, obtaining its not-for-profit status in March 1964.

In 1980, at the beginning of a capital campaign for a new building, the association’s name was officially changed to the Albany Museum of Art. In 1983, the citizens of Albany and Southwest Georgia opened a new museum facility at 311 Meadowlark Drive with an exhibition of American Impressionism from the Phillips Collection, and a permanent installation of the AMA’s own collection of traditional African art.

The AMA’s growing collection now includes 19th, 20th, and 21st century American and European paintings, works on paper, sculptures, watercolors, prints and photographs, Studio Glass, and what has become one of the largest collections of traditional Sub-Saharan African art in the Southeast outside of a university setting.

The Museum was accredited by the American Alliance of Museums in the early 1990s, an accreditation it has since maintained. Only three percent of institutions nationwide achieve and maintain this distinction.

On January 2, 2017, the AMA was hit by hurricane-force straight-line winds that devastated much of Albany and Southwest Georgia. The 90 mph-plus winds tore away large sections of the roof from the building, allowing rain into offices, galleries, and vaults on the second floor. The AMA worked tirelessly during those critical first days to ensure the collection was stabilized and moved to suitable storage or sent to professionals for conservation. None of the works in the museum collection or on loan were destroyed as a result of the storms. All works were secure when a second major storm, an F3 tornado, hit the area three weeks later.

The first 2017 storm forced the Museum to close for nearly nine months while repairs were made. In August 2017, it reopened its three downstairs galleries. The renovated upstairs McCormack Gallery reopened in November 2020, and the downstairs Hodges Gallery reopened in January 2021. The AMA
now has five galleries hosting exhibitions, including a permanent installation by artist Elinor Saragoussi in the West Gallery. The AMA’s collection returned home in waves, with every object returning to AMA stewardship by April 2022, and a museum-wide exhibition of the Museum’s collection opened for the summer season, May through August 2022.

It was after the 2017 storms that Museum officials and trustees began seriously exploring the idea of moving to a new location in Downtown Albany, which has been undergoing a renaissance with renewed interest from businesses. The move of the Museum to downtown became possible in June 2019 when the properties at 128 and 146 W. Broad Ave. were generously donated. The location, which will double the usable space the AMA now has, presents numerous opportunities for the institution, including proximity to other cultural attractions, the reimagining and updating of its visitor experience, and attracting a growing younger population centered in the downtown area. A capital campaign to raise the funding needed for the Museum facility began in late 2021 following the adoption of a new strategic plan.

The Albany Museum of Art takes pride in that it is a well-managed system that operates with distinction. For nearly 40 years, this Southwest Georgia gem has served as a national model by meeting the highest standards of the museum field by gaining and maintaining AAM accreditation.

Our Mission

The Albany Museum of Art brings the art of the South to the world, and the art of the world to the South. We build connections with individuals and communities to inspire curiosity, appreciation, understanding, and passion for art. We engage diverse experiences and perspectives in our audiences through relevant exhibitions, events, collection preservation, research, and educational programming.

Our Vision

As a premier arts and cultural hub for the Southwest Georgia region, we will grow our organization to create a fully accessible location downtown where all are welcome and can celebrate diversity, uniqueness, and creativity through shared experiences of art. We will accomplish this through authentic engagement with our communities, and by fostering a workplace that uplifts a dedicated and talented team that delivers on its goals of excellence in all our departments and projects.

Our Values

**CREATIVE** We deliver high-quality, inspiring exhibitions and programs.

**COURAGEOUS** We dare to be a forum for community dialogue and contemplation.

**ENGAGING** We are passionate about being a place of inclusion, trust, and welcome.

**EDUCATIONAL** We create innovative learning opportunities tailored to our visitors and programs.

**EVOlVING** We evolve with and for the communities we serve.
Essential Job Duties and Responsibilities:

The Albany Museum of Art in Albany, Georgia seeks a dynamic and effective museum professional to serve as Curator of African Collections and African American Art.

The successful candidate for this position is a collaborative and forward-thinking leader with at least seven to ten years of progressive experience in a museum curatorial department; broad experience as an administrator and manager; and experience with strategic planning and team building.

This is a full-time, permanent position that reports directly to the Director of Curatorial Affairs.

The Curator will implement the intellectual and interpretive strategies of the museum’s curatorial program including the research, design, and implementation of innovative exhibition strategies; care, management, and development of artifact, archival, and digital collections; development and production of dynamic educational and public programs, and oversight and guidance.

The successful candidate is a gifted leader, a compelling communicator—both in writing and spoken word—an outstanding researcher, an adept administrator, and a robust advocate for the museum. They will infuse energy into innovative and creative initiatives, and leverage collections, resources, and partnerships. It is essential that they are equally comfortable organizing major exhibitions, and/or using the exhibition as a platform to address timely topics and world events and provocative topics such as, but not limited to, issues of social justice.

The Curator, in partnership with the Director of Curatorial Affairs, will contribute the following to exhibition development, and will include but is not limited to:

- shaping the message and/or purpose of the exhibition
- implementing final object and graphic selection
- developing media and film
- writing/editing scripts for exhibitions and marketing materials
- scholarly reviews
- physically assist with installation and de-installation of exhibitions

This includes collaborating with and managing all exhibition consultants and contractors.

- The Curator will assist in developing and implementing a long-term vision for the Museum’s exhibition program that utilizes a collaborative and integrated approach that significantly enhances the quality of the visitor experience, attracts positive press, and earns respect from and builds bridges with the general public and community of historians.

- The Curator will also conduct and/or supervise the development of exhibitions based on the AMA’s permanent collection but also from outside collections, including research, artifact and image selection, digital/media production, and script writing.

- The Curator will work in collaboration with the Education & Public Programming department to support audience assessment, community engagement, and curricula development.

- The Curator conducts, directs, and encourages original, independent scholarly research on African and African-American history and culture, and other topics. The curator defines topics of genuine significance and ensures alignment with the museum’s strategic goals and priorities. The Curator
determines the feasibility of the topic for exhibition, publication, and/or public programming for both general and specialized audiences.

- The Curator initiates, reviews, and/or evaluates proposals for new research projects or major shifts in existing research or curatorial initiatives. The curator will also render decisions on proposals and provide leadership and guidance on their improvement and/or implementation.

Qualifications

- Master’s degree in art history, museum studies, African-American history, or related field.

- A recognized expert in the field with at least three years of senior management experience; minimum five years applied and progressive museum curatorial experience, including professional training in art handling.

- Evidence of and commitment to original scholarship with a proven record of initiating, curating, and delivering well-received exhibitions, publications, and, to a lesser degree, public programs.

- An understanding of visitor-centered approaches to content development.

- Senior-level management and leadership experience with a track record of success in managing people, operations, policies, and budgets.

- Highly-developed research, writing, and oral communication skills; the presence and credibility to serve as an effective museum spokesperson with visitors, supporters, the public, and the media.

- A positive, proactive, and collegial work ethic.

- Ability to physically engage in all activities necessary for exhibit installation and/or collections care; such as, but not limited to: lift up to 30 lbs., handle artworks safely and responsibly, be able to be on one’s feet for hours at a time, be able to safely use a step-stool/ladder and operate power tools, bend, twist and lift with relative ease, etc.

Location: Albany, Georgia, United States

Position Title: Curator of African Collections and African American Art

Company Name: Albany Museum of Art

Job Type: Full-Time

Job Duration: Indefinite

Min Education: Master’s Degree

Min Experience: 5-7 Years

Salary: $40,000 annually
Contact:

The Albany Museum of Art is an Equal Opportunity Employer, committed to diversity, accessibility, equity, and inclusion. Confidential inquiries, applications, and recommendations are welcome. Please email cover letter and resume to Katie Dillard, at katie.dillard@albanymuseum.com with “Curator Position” in the subject line.