



# Craft Contemporary

## Job Opportunity: Curator

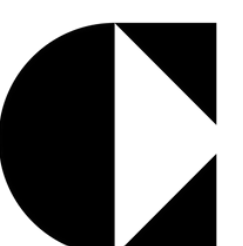
Craft Contemporary seeks a creative thinker and highly effective leader to serve as its next Curator. This presents a unique opportunity to lead the Curatorial Department within a vibrant museum with a rich history in Los Angeles. The organization is experiencing a revitalization under new leadership, adding to its distinctive position in the art community. The Curator will play a pivotal role in refining and developing the museum's overarching curatorial vision, overseeing curatorial and exhibition operations, supervising museum preparatory staff, fostering collaborative partnerships, and enhancing the museum's visibility to elevate community engagement and impact. This is a full-time, hybrid (four days in office, one day remote), exempt position.

## Roles & Responsibilities

Reporting to the Executive Director, the position oversees the Curatorial Department and its strategic growth. Collaborating with leadership members, the Curator is responsible for implementing a cohesive vision and strategy for Craft Contemporary's exhibitions and related programming. To achieve a balanced schedule of monographic, thematic, and traveling exhibitions, the Curator will collaborate across departments to propose large and small-scale exhibitions and work with other teams to execute and communicate all aspects related to these projects.

In coordination with the Executive Director, the Curator will conceptualize and articulate a compelling curatorial vision aligned with Craft Contemporary's mission and values. This vision aims to captivate and engage a broad audience through various channels such as exhibitions, public talks, tours, academic conferences, publications, digital initiatives, and community engagement. The Curator will actively foster individual, corporate, and professional partnerships on regional, national, and international levels. These partnerships will play a crucial role in supporting new exhibitions that reflect both current and historical craft initiatives. Additionally, the Curator will contribute to the stewardship of artists, donors, members, collectors, and other art professionals. The Curator will conduct research, write scholarly texts, and provide exhibition-related content to develop grant proposals, press, publications, didactic and interpretative materials, and website. Collaboration across departments will be essential to edit and finalize these materials.

The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of employing an inclusive and equitable curatorial approach to exhibitions and related programming, with expertise in craft, fine art, material culture, and underrepresented voices. Possessing a deep understanding of craft in the United States past and present, the ideal candidate should recognize its various intersections and pluralities, as well as understand how craft and art operate within institutional contexts and mass culture. Leadership in promoting craft will require practical and theoretical engagement with various stakeholders. Additionally, the ideal candidate should have a comprehensive understanding of the continuum of historic materials related to the history of craft and visual culture in the United States, encompassing traditional, experimental, digital, and non-traditional materials and mediums such as but not limited to ceramics, textiles, woodworking, printmaking, jewelry, basketry, collage, assemblage, sculpture, etc.



Previous experience in a supervisory role is strongly preferred, as this individual will be responsible for hiring, training, and mentoring a full-time Preparator/Exhibition Coordinator, guest curators, seasonal curatorial interns, and a small team of seasonal preparatory staff, including apprentices from The Broad's Diversity Apprenticeship Program (DAP). The ideal candidate will bring a creative and collaborative approach to team building, scholarship, curation, and exhibition design.

A strong commitment to uphold and advance Craft Contemporary's Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI) initiatives is essential. Craft Contemporary is deeply committed to Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion as integral components of its mission. We leverage craft to amplify underrepresented voices, explore alternative histories, and foster connections through making and learning. Our focus on materiality, process, traditional and collective knowledge provides a meaningful counterpoint to prevailing cultural and economic trends. Simultaneously, we acknowledge the complexity of the history of craft, recognizing the challenges faced by marginalized communities and the ties to colonialism in traditional Eurocentric practices. We actively engage with plural narratives of craft, challenging and expanding traditional notions through exhibitions, programming, and community outreach. Our cultural impact extends beyond exhibitions, emphasizing community engagement and fostering a culture of care and support. We are dedicated to nurturing diversity among our staff, volunteers, educators, partners, and leadership, actively working to enhance hiring practices, outreach, institutional culture, and pay equity. We confront the nation's violent history, acknowledging settler colonialism and ongoing migrations. We define our responsibility in opposition to these histories, actively working to dismantle systemic legacies. Craft Contemporary has a history of showcasing artists reflecting our diverse communities, offering affordable, artist-led multicultural programming. Our commitment to DEAI is evident in our inter-departmental collaboration, ongoing education on systems of oppression, and regular revision of our policies, programming, and practices.

## **Responsibilities Include:**

- Provide direction and leadership to the Curatorial Department ensuring a supportive work environment that attracts, motivates, and retains a diverse staff of energetic, top-quality colleagues.
- Supervise the Preparator/Exhibition Coordinator, seasonal preparatory staff, guest curators, and seasonal interns.
- Collaborate with museum leadership to develop and articulate a compelling curatorial vision in alignment with Craft Contemporary's mission and values.
- Conceptualize, propose, plan, design, and execute large and small-scale exhibitions to achieve a balanced multi-year schedule of monographic, thematic, and traveling exhibitions.
- Collaborate with partnering organizations and guest curators on already scheduled multi-year and special projects.
- Conduct research, produce scholarly texts, and provide exhibition-related content for grant proposals, press releases, publications, didactic and interpretative materials, and website.
- Engage a broad audience through exhibitions and related programming including public talks, tours, academic conferences, publications, digital initiatives, and community engagement.
- Actively foster individual, corporate, and professional partnerships on regional, national, and international levels to support new exhibitions reflecting or transcending current and historical craft ideologies.
- Contribute to the stewardship of artists, collectors, donors, members, community leaders, elected officials, and other art professionals.
- Manage and monitor departmental budget(s), collaborate on budget proposals, implement cost control measures, and ensure compliance with financial policies and grant awards guidelines.
- Attend quarterly Board of Trustees meetings to present upcoming exhibitions and projects.
- Support the Executive Director with fundraising efforts by tracking, organizing, and attending meetings with key artists, donors, foundations, and corporations.
- Special projects and other duties as designated by the Executive Director.





## Traits, Characteristics, & Qualifications

- Demonstrate commitment and enthusiasm for Craft Contemporary's mission.
- While a master's degree in a related field is highly preferred, we value a combination of a university degree and a minimum of five (5) years of professional curatorial experience in museums, galleries, or cultural institutions.
- Demonstrated track record of scholarly and professional contributions is essential.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and Adobe Creative Suite.
- Ability to work some weeknights and weekends.
- We value strong organizational, analytical, oral, and written communication skills, including public speaking. Proficiency in more than one language, particularly English and Spanish, is a plus.
- Deep knowledge of museum practices and standards; familiarity with arts management challenges and opportunities.
- Applicants are expected to possess a deep understanding, education, and/or specific subject knowledge of craft and art with a proficiency in art handling of various mediums and objects.
- A genuine enthusiasm to work with traditional, experimental, digital, and non-traditional materials and mediums such as but not limited to ceramics, textiles, woodworking, printmaking, jewelry, basketry, collage, assemblage, sculpture, etc. from across the globe.
- An understanding of conservation issues across various disciplines is highly valued.
- Ability to work collaboratively and productively with a diverse multigenerational professional staff to foster a positive and cooperative work environment.
- A high level of initiative with the ability to identify and manage all resources, tasks, and systems to achieve tangible results, while also being responsive and adaptable to people and cultural changes, with flexibility and a human-centered approach.
- A core commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion.
- Must be able to sit, stand, and walk or be mobile, and safely carry up to 25 pounds in the course of their normal duties independently or with a team.
- Must have hand/wrist coordination and good vision for computer work and artwork inspection (with or without the aid of eyeglasses, contact lenses, or other adaptive technologies).
- Long periods of standing or physical activity within a museum environment, including wood dust, paint fumes, and other environmental hazards.
- Must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance.
- Must be up to date on vaccination for COVID-19.

## Compensation

The budgeted salary range for this position is \$70,000-\$85,000. A benefits package will also be provided.

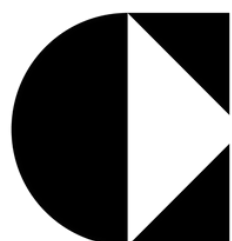
Craft Contemporary is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage candidates from all backgrounds to apply, as diversity and inclusion are fundamental to our organizational values. We are committed to providing a workplace that embraces and celebrates diversity, fostering an environment of equal opportunity for all.

## Application Procedure

To be considered for this position, please submit the following as PDF attachments to Rody N. Lopez, Executive Director, [HR@craftcontemporary.org](mailto:HR@craftcontemporary.org)

- Letter of interest
- Resume/CV with professional references
- Writing sample

*The application period will remain open until the position is filled. We anticipate the selected candidate to start by May 1, 2024.*





## About Craft Contemporary

Craft Contemporary, located on Los Angeles' historic Miracle Mile, resides in a three-story neo-Georgian building designed in 1930 by Gilbert Stanley Underwood. Once housing Frieda Schroeder Cakes, it was transformed into a restaurant and gallery by painter Edith Robinson Wyle in 1965, gaining non-profit status as the Craft and Folk Art Museum in 1973. Today, its façade, adorned with a vibrant geometric design by Los Angeles artist Brent Spears (Shrine), showcases the museum's dynamic spirit.

In 2018, the institution transitioned to Craft Contemporary, aligning its name with a mission that celebrates both the process and outcome of making. Craft Contemporary is a vibrant hub for creativity and cultural enrichment in Los Angeles, embracing diverse audiences. The museum remains committed to Wyle's legacy, curating exhibitions featuring established and emerging artists exploring craft media often overlooked in larger institutions. Wyle's belief in the transformative power of hand-crafted objects echoes through the museum's commitment to representing handmade art, cultural identity, and immersive experiences. The institution continues to evolve, offering educational programs and hands-on multigenerational workshops, creating a space where Los Angeles residents can deepen their connection to art, creativity, and community.

The museum also features an award-winning [Museum Shop](#), which is a destination in its own right.

Please visit [www.craftcontemporary.org/about](http://www.craftcontemporary.org/about) for more information.

## About Los Angeles

Los Angeles is the commercial, financial, and cultural center of Southern California. The city covers approximately 470 square miles and is home to a population of 4 million residents (10 million in Los Angeles County); it is the largest city in the state of California and the second most populous city in the United States. Los Angeles is known for its Mediterranean climate, ethnic and cultural diversity, championship sports teams, and beautiful beaches. Los Angeles ranks among the world's largest economies; not only is it the epicenter of the entertainment industry, but Los Angeles also has a booming tourism industry and strengths in international trade, technology, fashion, and digital media. Los Angeles is home to iconic landmarks and attractions, renowned universities and colleges, and more museums than any city in the United States, including The Getty, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The Broad, and California Science Center.



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