



VANCOUVER BIENNALE INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT CURATOR

POSITION INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT CURATOR

STATUS Independent contractor, part time (starting Fall 2022)

COMPENSATION Total contract value: \$25,000 (\$50/hr)

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER BIENNALE

The **Vancouver Biennale** is a non-profit charitable organization that celebrates art in public space, where art is the catalyst for learning, engagement, and social action. Our goal is to transform the urban landscape, creating globally inspired cultural experiences where people live, play, work, and transit.

Our exhibitions integrate local and international public art into peoples' daily lives and bring a wide audience of people of all ages and cultural backgrounds together as a community to explore, learn, dialogue and imagine. Building on these experiences and working closely with our partners, we program events that include lectures, talks, film making, gatherings, education programs for schools, projects for post-secondary learning institutions, publications, and a strong online presence.

The team at the **Vancouver Biennale** has been responsible for bringing some of the most iconic and ambitious public art projects to the city, region and nation. Yue Minjun's infectious ***A-maze-ing Laughter***, the monumental ***WOW Westminster*** by José Resende in New Westminster, ***OSGEMEOS Giants*** on the Granville Island silos, ***Trans Am Totem*** by Marcus Bowcott and Helene Aspinall, ***Device to Root Out Evil*** and ***Engagement*** by Dennis Oppenheim, neon and LED installations ***Let's Heal the Divide*** by Toni Latour and ***This Beautiful Day*** by Kristin McIver, an inspiration created by collaboration with the Coast Salish people and Squamish Nation. These are just some of the projects that have become iconic parts of Vancouver and the region's visual identity.

POSITION OVERVIEW

We are looking for an experienced **Indigenous Engagement Curator** to lead in the development and implementation of community engagement projects across Canada in response to the **Vancouver Biennale's** national touring exhibition, ***Weaving Cultural Identities and Threads Through Time***, engaging Indigenous communities in the exhibition host locations to create site-specific workshops and activations. These two exhibitions, originally conceived as part of the 2018-2021 **Vancouver Biennale**, brought together weavers and designers from Coast Salish and Muslim backgrounds to collaborate on a series of textile artworks inspired by the concept of prayer rugs and traditional Coast Salish blankets. Inspired by a chain-link mosque created by young Saudi artist Ajlan Gharem. This is the second phase of the tour (2022-2024), following its exhibition in five venues from 2020-2021 in five provinces and territories.



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This would be a contract position located anywhere in Canada, with autonomy to shape local events across the country and internationally. The Curator would work with local Indigenous and Muslim communities to build bridges for the institutions where the exhibition is travelling, then oversee the creation of content from these encounters to enrich the existing publication and videos, making this material available locally and along the tour. These events would be curated in collaboration and consultation with leaders, educators, and knowledge keepers from Indigenous and Islamic communities at each location, and include gatherings, workshops, partnership development, and an adapted curriculum for schools and school groups to undertake tours of the exhibition.

More resources about the exhibitions:

Weaving Cultural Identities

<https://www.vancouverbiennale.com/artworks/weaving-cultural-identities/>

Threads Through Time

<https://www.vancouverbiennale.com/artworks/weaving-cultural-identities-2/>

KEY CONTACT/REPORTING RELATIONSHIP

Position reports to Director of Operations and Program Management and the Artistic Director

SPECIFIC DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

Duties and responsibilities include the following:

- Research and outreach to local communities and cultural stakeholders to develop event plans for each tour location.
- Overseeing the budget for events and community engagement activities.
- Identifying local contractors and partners for program delivery.
- Overseeing documentation of the projects, through photographs, video, and written testimonials.
- Ongoing consultation with exhibition artists and cultural advisors around program development.
- Planning and coordinating artist travel to exhibition locations (pending funding).
- Travel and program delivery as required.
- Supporting the Vancouver Biennale team with fundraising and promotion efforts for the ongoing exhibition tour.



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MINIMUM POSITION REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Excellent organizational, project management and public engagement skills.
- Knowledge of Indigenous ways of knowing and how these relate to work in the cultural sector.
- Ability to initiate, sustain, and grow relationships with a variety of individuals and groups.
- Ability to manage multiple projects and competing priorities
- Excellent cross-cultural, interpersonal, communication and presentation skills
- Proven experience coordinating complex projects.
- Demonstrated ability to work with minimal supervision and to make independent decisions and actions.
- A strong connection to Indigenous Communities with a deep knowledge and understanding of Indigenous diversity.
- Project Coordination / Management experience.
- Strong collaboration, communications and interpersonal skills.
- Strong organizational abilities and the ability to work with tight timelines.
- Sound judgment with excellent decision making and problem-solving skills.
- Willingness to travel as needed.
- Grant writing experience.
- Strong writing and editing skills.

First Nations, Inuit or Métis candidates will be given priority for this position.

Application close date: October 31, 2022

Application Procedure:

Submit the following materials to jobs@vancouverbiennale.com with **Indigenous Engagement Curator** in the subject line of your email:

- A cover letter that includes how your specific experiences qualify you for this position.
- CV or detailed bio.

The **Vancouver Biennale** thanks all applicants in advance. Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls please. Questions may be forwarded to the email address listed above.

We acknowledge we are on the ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.