

# SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM

**Emily Rauh Pulitzer Deputy Director & Chief Curator**  
**St. Louis, Missouri**

## THE SEARCH

The Saint Louis Art Museum seeks an accomplished curator, strategic leader, and collaborative administrator to serve as the inaugural Emily Rauh Pulitzer Deputy Director & Chief Curator. Reporting to the Barbara B. Taylor Director, the Deputy Director & Chief Curator will serve as a key member of the Saint Louis Art Museum's senior leadership team. They will work in close partnership with the Director, members of the Museum boards, and staff to provide strategic vision and leadership for the planning, priority-setting, integration, and stewardship of a forward-looking and financially sustainable institution. They will oversee the curatorial, conservation, registration, exhibitions, and Art Handling, Preparations, and Installations (API) departments to help the Director shape the curatorial vision for the institution and to create and execute institutional collections and exhibition plans working in alignment with and reflecting the larger strategic goals of the Museum.

The Saint Louis Art Museum seeks an experienced and energetic Deputy Director & Chief Curator (DDCC) with astute organizational and communication skills, adept at creating and fostering collaborative working relationships across the entire range of departments and programs of the Museum. The ideal candidate is a strong communicator, able to speak and write passionately about the institution's collection, legacy, impact, growth strategy, values, and future direction across audiences and constituencies. The Museum benefits from strong financial support, collection, ambitions, and talent. This opportunity will align personal with institutional growth in a manner few institutions offer.

The Saint Louis Art Museum has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to conduct this search. Confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications may be directed to Isaacson, Miller as indicated at the end of this document.

## SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM

The [Saint Louis Art Museum](#) (SLAM) was founded in 1879, at the close of a decade that saw the establishment of art museums in great cities across the eastern half of the United States. What began as a collection of assorted plaster casts, electrotypes reproductions, and other examples of good design in various media rapidly gave way to a great and varied collection of original works of art spanning five millennia and six continents. Today, the quality and breadth of the Museum's collection secure for it a place among the very best institutions of its kind.

The mission of the Saint Louis Art Museum is to collect, present, interpret, and conserve works of art of the highest quality across time and cultures; educate, inspire, discover, and elevate the human spirit; preserve a legacy of artistic achievement for the people of St. Louis and the world; and engage, include, and represent the full diversity of the St. Louis community supporting it.

## THE POSITION

The Deputy Director & Chief Curator will work directly with the Barbara B. Taylor Director to define the exhibition program and lead the Museum's efforts in developing and implementing comprehensive exhibition and permanent collection programs that advances the Museum's visibility and reputation within the St. Louis community as well as more nationally and internationally. They will build upon the Saint Louis Art Museum's impressive collection through strategic acquisitions, rigorous provenance research, and intentional, systematic collections care and management.

This position will lead and motivate a talented and dedicated team of more than 60 museum professionals who manage and oversee a broad range of mission-critical projects, programs, and activities. The Saint Louis Art Museum has a total annual operating budget of \$41.7M and an endowment of \$274M.

The primary responsibilities of this role are as follows:

### Leadership and Strategy

- Working closely with the Director, the DDCC develops and implements comprehensive exhibition and permanent collection programs to broaden and strengthen the museum's local, national, and international audiences.
- Leads multiple high-profile collection and exhibition projects forward and effectively leverages available resources and/or creatively identifies new resources as necessary; remains open and nimble in adjusting to emerging needs and shifting priorities.
- Fosters high-performing, diverse teams of the highest degree of professionalism with ongoing direction, advocacy, and guidance. Encourages a culture of collaboration and accountability across departments that leads to productive communication, projects, and results across the Museum, creating and delivering on shared goals.
- Leads priority-setting, budget planning, and strategic management for Curatorial, Collections, Conservation, API, and Exhibitions departments; tracks and approves all expenditures, resolves variances.
- Works closely with the Museum's Development team to advocate for funds that support a variety of initiatives, including endowment and naming opportunities. Responsible for implementing agreements and obligations.
- Actively participates in identifying potential sources of funding and the development of grant and donor strategies and proposals; plays an active role in donor cultivation and stewardship, building support for SLAM through gifts, purchases, and exhibition fundraising efforts.
- Participates in meetings of the boards and committees; serves as staff liaison to the Collections Committee.
- Serves as a spokesperson for the organization in the community, the field and media; participates in and presents at professional conferences and conventions, attends community and civic gatherings on behalf of the Museum; and plays an active role in sharing SLAM's work with the field and keeping abreast of developments in the field.

- Keeps apprised of trends and developments in the museum and non-profit fields and ensures that SLAM maintains leadership as a model for a 21st century museum in service to the public.

### **Curatorial and Exhibitions Oversight and Execution**

- Effectively manages the development and implementation of the Museum's long-range exhibition schedule, permanent collection gallery displays, and touring program that aligns with and supports institutional strategies and priorities.
- In conversation with the Director, develops a clear strategic direction for the Museum's exhibition program and core gallery initiatives based on an analysis of the internal and external programmatic landscape as well as distinctive strengths of the Museum's collections, staff, and history; creates overall programming that is diverse and balanced, reflects and appeals to all in the St. Louis community as well as beyond, and meets the Museum's attendance objectives and forecasts.

Ensures clarity of vision and appropriate frameworks, principles, tools, and resources are in place for productive, cross-disciplinary and cross-departmental collaboration in order to create the optimal visitor experience.

- Supports the direction of priority setting and planning for the collections, curatorial, conservation, and production teams to ensure exhibition and gallery projects are delivered effectively, efficiently, on time, on budget, and with timely engagement of and collaboration with internal stakeholders.
- Leads and works cross-departmentally to develop and implement a master plan for the presentation of the collection that speaks to a new generation of visitors while serving the needs of long-term audiences.

### **Collections Development, Care and Management**

- Leads the Museum's collecting and collections strategy including facilitating multi-year and annual planning for collection documentation and care, acquisitions and deaccessions; supports the development of innovative programs and methods for collections access, interpretation and presentation.
- Actively participates in setting funding strategies and building external support for the collection plan, including working closely with Development and Learning & Engagement colleagues in support of Collectors Circle groups and their acquisitions.
- Recommends and approves collections management policies and procedures, as well as handles all claims to objects in the collection; oversees proactive and reactive provenance research, and approves or recommends to the Director changes in attribution, and requests for loans from the collection; provides overall guidance on legal and policy issues related to the collection for the Museum and as part of national and international professional groups.
- Ensures the safe-keeping of the collection while developing cost-effective measures for on/off-site storage.
- Determines priorities for conservation, scientific examination, and treatment based on the many needs of exhibitions, loans, gifts of art, gallery reinstallations, renovation, and permanent collection projects.

- Works closely with Learning & Engagement on matters of texts, labels, and other interpretive materials and programming that ensure relatability and balance of internal and external voices.
- Advocates for internal initiatives that modernize, streamline, and integrate collection content, aligned with industry standards and using existing and new processes to provide enhanced access to collection information for both internal and external stakeholders.

## QUALIFICATIONS & CHARACTERISTICS

The ideal candidate is a creative and strategic thinker who contributes to fresh and innovative ideas, while possessing strong operational and project management abilities. They will have led major institutional initiatives and be able to move fluidly between big-picture strategic thinking and pragmatic delivery against deadlines and outcomes with the ability to prioritize and apply granular and practical solutions, including aligning financial resources.

This individual will bring many, if not most, of the following professional experiences and personal characteristics:

- 10+ years of experience with progressive growth toward senior leadership within a complex museum environment or collection-based cultural institution.
- Demonstrated experience in directing successful exhibition and collection initiatives in museums with cultural competence and a history of building equitable and inclusive programming.
- Achievements as an adaptive change agent, collaborator, and coalition-builder with strong interpersonal skills and capacity for managing and leading people with diverse backgrounds, views and work styles.
- Fosters collaboration within and between teams, inspiring trust in colleagues, and creating the conditions for institutional success.
- Solid budget acumen, project management, financial planning, integration, and priority-setting skills.
- Successful track record developing and stewarding donor relationships that support the Museum's fundraising goals. Understanding of fundraising techniques, grant application procedures, and funding sources.
- Superior communication and presentation skills, both written and verbal, including command of public speaking.
- A nimble and creative thinker who performs well under pressure, while maintaining the Museum's high standards.
- An MA in Art History (PhD preferred), supported by significant scholarship in the field including exhibitions, publications and acquisitions.

## LOCATION AND COMPENSATION

This is a permanent, full-time position in Saint Louis with a targeted starting salary range of \$250-300,000.

## APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent in confidence to:

Sarah James, Claire Hennessey, and Ivy Couch  
Isaacson, Miller

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/saint-louis-art-museum/deputy-director-and-chief-curator>

*All applicants have [rights under Federal Law](#): Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), and Employee Polygraph Protection Act (EPPA).*