Curator & Gallery Director at the Dahl Arts Center

Organization: Rapid City Arts Council  
Location: Dahl Arts Center, Rapid City, South Dakota  
Type of Position: Full-Time  
Date Posted: 6/16/23  
Date Needed: 8/1/23

About Rapid City, South Dakota
Rapid City is the largest metropolitan area in a 200-mile radius, so it is an important economic, cultural, and healthcare hub. The Rapid City Arts Council is well-positioned to engage and connect with the vibrant surrounding communities of the Black Hills and Northern Plains, including those on sovereign native lands. Festivals, powwows, and art markets abound, in addition to diverse regional, national, and international arts offerings. The Dahl Arts Center serves as a regional hub for the arts.

The city is nestled in the eastern foothills of the breathtaking Black Hills National Forest and features extensive greenways and trail systems within minutes of downtown, making it a natural destination for outdoor enthusiasts. You can enjoy world-class mountain biking, hiking, fishing, boating, golfing, rock climbing, skiing, and snow sports. There’s something for everybody!

Rapid City is also within 300 miles of 12 national parks, and five million visitors flock to Rapid City and the Black Hills every year to see top attractions like Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Crazy Horse Memorial, Badlands National Park, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Custer State Park, and our very own Dahl Arts Center.

The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City and Black Hills State University in Spearfish attract students from around the country and provide a wealth of innovative technology and education resources that support a diversifying economy.

The U.S. Census Bureau recently named Rapid City as one of the fastest-growing cities in the country and the fastest growing community in the Midwest for the second year in a row. Rapid City’s growth rate outpaces Phoenix, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Collins, Billings, Reno, Charlotte and Sioux Falls.

About Rapid City Arts Council & Dahl Arts Center
The Rapid City Arts Council (RCAC) brings art and people together to foster an innovative, equitable regional community through inspiring and accessible programming, dynamic collaborative partnerships, and committed advocacy. The Dahl Arts Center (the Dahl) was established in 1974 as a premier resource for visual arts, performing arts and arts education in Rapid City and the Northern Plains. The Dahl is civically owned and is operated by the Rapid City Arts Council in our mission to
champion inclusive, innovative and inspiring arts opportunities to enrich the communities we serve. Through exhibitions, activities and educational programs at the Dahl, RCAC serves to foster the creation, accessibility, and understanding of the arts for diverse audiences. www.thedahl.org, www.rapidcityartscouncil.org

Description & Details
The Rapid City Arts Council (RCAC) seeks applicants for the lead curatorial position dedicated to regional art and the management of the four visual art galleries at the Dahl Arts Center. This position offers a dynamic arts professional the opportunity to create exhibition, collection, and interpretative programs for regional art that serve the changing needs of a growing community. The Curator will join the RCAC at a momentous time in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Dahl, renewing the institution’s strategic plan, and developing the cultural plan for the city.

Primary Responsibilities
The Curator directs the care, development, and installation of works of art and related artifacts to inform, inspire, educate and entertain the public. The Curator is responsible for ensuring that exhibits are of the highest quality possible given resources available and helping artists in their professional development through the exhibit program.

Exhibits at the Dahl serve a dual purpose; one is to inform and educate the public through visual arts and the other is to teach and develop artists and arts organizations on how to exhibit. The Curator is responsible for artist, arts organization, and audience development through the exhibit program.

The Curator is part of the RCAC management team and staff of ten and plays an integral role in ensuring the nonprofit organization achieves its financial and strategic goals in coordinating with other team members and the RCAC Board of Directors.

Major Duties
Curatorial & Gallery Management

- Develop, research, review and respond to artists’ exhibit proposals, touring exhibition inquiries and guest curator opportunities for the Dahl galleries.
- Together with the Exhibition and Collections Committee, develop original exhibitions and installations and acquire works for the Dahl’s Permanent Collection.
- Engage with artists; be available to offer creative support and feedback; observe progress on upcoming shows.
- Guide, edit and work with the Assistant Curator on condition reports, interpretive programs, support materials, price lists and exhibit-related event programming.
- Exhibit, grow and care for the Permanent Collection at the Dahl (currently ~300 pieces) and keep adequate records.
- Collaborate with education and other departments to plan and execute programs, events, interpretation and gallery tours.
• Support the day-to-day operations of the Dahl galleries and oversee the curatorial, gift shop, guest services staff and volunteers.
• Monitor gallery areas and ensure the facility is properly maintained.
• Network with other museum and art gallery professionals as well as outside agencies through meetings, collaborative projects and conferences.
• Be available to artist groups and local businesses to offer expertise in exhibition methods and the display of original art.
• Partner with other local art organizations and exhibit and collections institutions to share expertise, ideas and resources whenever possible.
• Develop exhibition-related activities that attract and retain audiences, members and donors; manage exhibit-related events, including artist receptions.
• Act as the manager of the Dahl gift shop, which sells local art and artisan goods.

**Leadership**

• Champion the Dahl as a vital arts institution and serve as a spokesperson while interacting with a wide range of constituencies.
• Monitor public perception of the program and respond to community input.
• Work with Executive Director and Board to develop budget, department goals, reports, and strategic plans.
• Handle inquiries from the press, researchers, other curators and institutions.
• Coordinate with the Marketing team on promotional and outreach efforts.
• Assist in the cultivation and stewardship of donors, members and funders.
• Attend monthly evening and weekend engagements; occasional travel.

**Perform other duties as assigned.**

**Valuable Skills & Qualifications**

• Extensive knowledge of art mediums and art history
• Demonstrated expertise in acquiring, caring for and developing an art collection
• Ability to plan, organize and present exhibitions
• Knowledge of best practices and the latest methods in exhibiting visual art
• Excellent sense of exhibit design and layout for galleries
• Enthusiasm for building partnerships and relationships with colleagues, arts organizations, donors, collectors and the public
• Exemplary written and verbal communication; facility for public speaking
• Analytical skills and the ability to effectively manage projects, timelines, budgets, goals and report results to key stakeholders
• Familiarity with local community for exhibit sponsorship and fundraising
• Able to handle the physical demands of taking in large shows, installing and de-installing artwork and performing tasks involving standing and walking for extended periods of time. Must be able to lift 25 pounds

**Compensation Range:** $44,000-$50,000 based on experience and qualifications.
Benefits include paid time off, company holidays, family discounts on events and classes, personal and sick days, free on-site parking, and opportunities for professional networking, growth and development.
How to Apply / Contact
Please submit a cover letter and resume or curriculum vitae via email to admin@thedahl.org. Please include “Curator Position” in the subject line.

The RCAC is committed to equal employment opportunities. We do not discriminate based on any classification protected by applicable federal, state, or local law, including but not limited to sex, race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, gender, pregnancy, age, genetic information, military status, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or on any other basis that would be in violation of any applicable federal, state, or local law. This applies to all areas of employment, including recruitment, selection, hiring, training, transfer, promotion, termination, compensation, and benefits. We make reasonable accommodations for known physical or mental disabilities of qualified job applicants or employees to allow them to perform essential job duties.