



IPOF Now! Local Community Curator Summer 2018

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Weeksville Heritage Center's mission is "to document, preserve and interpret the history of free African American communities in Weeksville, Brooklyn and beyond and to create and inspire innovative, contemporary uses of African American history through education, the arts, and civic engagement." Honoring the 50th anniversary we incorporate the theme Rediscovering Weekesville.

The exposition *In Pursuit of Freedom NOW!* will be an intimate sentiment on the notion of freedom for African Americans. Perspectives will be rendered from original, historical artworks and material from the Weeksville archives collection of photographs, maps, documents, videos, and oral histories to contemporary perceptions of current, local and emerging African American artists. The project will tour various locations in Brooklyn with varying components of the project available at our Education and Cultural Arts Campus located in the Crown Heights section of Central Brooklyn. Ancillary public programming will support the exhibition experience throughout the year.

Using a contemporary lens, *In Pursuit of Freedom NOW!* will focus on archiving activism as it relates to defining freedom for African Americans. It will recount history and use the information to shed light on contemporary issues of social and economic equality, identifying approaches taken in the past and documenting and suggesting options for the future. Starting with the exploration of documented accounts of freedom during slavery to current realities not bound by popular ideas of freedom relating to physical license. Through the unique history and programming garnered from our Education and Cultural Arts Campus, WHC will create tour-able events that compliment on site activities. Through the creation of a school based education curriculum, oral historians, professional as well as local adult and youth community curators and various art disciplines. Each will address social, political, cultural, and generational issues and be made available online. The intention is to interactively engage participants as part of the discursive process and to reiterate the interpretation of the community of Weeksville. WHC will analyze a "just society" during this project, as a "just society" was the inspiration for Weeksville's founder James Weeks, a free African American who purchased his first property in 1838, 12 years after slavery was abolished in New York State, and invested a generous amount of savings for the establishment of this community for persons of color. Weeksville became a self-contained oasis in the still segregated North. It drew workers, intellectuals, and artists. Black owned businesses schools, churches and benevolent associations as well as orphanages to care for children and homes to care for the aging were established. By 1850, it was the second-largest community for free Blacks in the United States.



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Through a recursive process, *In Pursuit of Freedom NOW!* will be the companion project to our permanent exhibition “*In Pursuit of Freedom*” which takes the visitor on a journey through Brooklyn’s abolitionists and anti-slavery activists and how they actively shaped the history of both the city and the nation. *In Pursuit of Freedom* is housed on our Education and Cultural Arts Campus while *In Pursuit of Freedom NOW!* will expand on the ideas in the initial exhibition and be a tour-able panel exhibition with photographic representations of objects, documents and images from the Weeksville archives, unconventionally and unexpectedly coupled with the oral histories of the growth changes and challenges facing the community over the past 20 years

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The local Community Curator will support the planning of historical and art exhibition and public programs and additional public engagement strategies during the run of IPOF Now! Historical mobile exhibit & Forward Ever art exhibit at Weeksville & partner venues and cultural orgs around the city. The Community Curator will comprehensively plan, execute, assist curator and document these pop ups and programs while simultaneously creating a strategy and systems for Weekesville’s outreach.

The Community Curator will provide artistic contributions, installation assistance, levent logistics and public facing support. The Community Curator is responsible for the successful execution of exhibit, programs, visitor experience and exhibit participant evaluations. The Community Curator may be asked to work on several exhibitions and programs simultaneously, therefore good project management, time management, and communication skills are critical for success in this role. The Community Curator position will spans Summer 2018 From May 1st, 2018 - July 28th 2018.

The Community Curator will work with lead curator on archival research, conceptualization, writing and planning to create social action based popup exhibition, public programs, panels, dialogues and live experiences relating to our exhibit and pressing social issues in the black community. The Community Curator will support programs



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around upcoming pop up exhibits, partnership projects and more, contributing to the intellectual framework for a social justice oriented museum paradigm, rediscovering Weeksville.

AREAS YOU WILL BE WORKING WITHIN:

HISTORY EXHIBITION - IPOF Now!

Exhibition conceptualization, carrying out background research and writing written material on exhibition pieces (labels, etc.); writing materials and articles for the website; writing articles for internal and external publications. Work on exhibition proposals, exhibition planning, and ideas for innovative exhibition content. Illustrate key moments in weekesvilles history.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS & POP UP EXHIBITS

Submit leads for pop up exhibits sites. Event planning and managing public facing programs. Work closely with curator to determine various educational goals and arts infused touchpoints for programs. Conceptualize and plan program logistics, write program descriptions.

ART EXHIBITION - FORWARD EVER!

Call for artists, artist outreach and studio visits. Install & Collaborate with Team to develop exhibit ideas and components.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Assist with External Affairs Director in liaising with community partners, managing community programs and identifying and cultivating potential partners, and helping to maintain healthy relationships with past and future partners. Liaise with Weeksville ambassadors and other supporters.



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ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGY

Create mechanisms for improving on processes and create systems and standard operating procedures. Coordinate and recruit volunteers. Host team meetings with prospective volunteers to keep them in the loop. Host individual check in meetings, infused with accountability, with curator and team members to report out on the status of their projects.

- Guide Weeksville in futurist thinking and cutting edge social justice trends to deepen our practice, systems and outcomes.
- Advise, Assist and Administer with and for Curator as Needed.
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CREATIVE CONCEPTS / PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- Create, design and make recommendations for improving exhibit display and presentation for pop ups. Make recommendations for improving exhibit elements durability & mobility.
- Manage logistics for Pop Up's including site visits, sketches of space, spatial arrangement and more for select exhibitions.
- Help manage, liaise and source visual artists, performing artists and other creatives by setting systems and forms.
- Become fluent in the status of all current projects and the administration of them.

SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY & PROFESSIONALISM:

- The Community Curator has the responsibility to fulfill responsibilities to the best of their ability, while actively seeking clarification, help, or guidance from Curator to ensure tasks are carried out in a timely and professional manner. No calls, No shows, late work, non communication will ultimately result in termination of contract. Curator will be equally accountable for success of project and contractors understanding.
- The Community Curator & Curator agree to communicate in a transparent manner to ensure that responsibilities are relevant, prioritized, doable and ensuring balanced workload.



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- The Community Curator will always get consent from Curator prior to outreach. The Community Curator agrees to discuss partnership ideas with Curator prior to outreaching on WHC behalf. Once approved the Community Curator will copy Curator on all communication with third parties and understands that the Curator have the final say in important decisions that involve third parties.
- The Community Curator will send weekly update emails to Curator, and other project personnel to keep in the communication loop, relay progress, understand MOI updates, and ensure goals are met.
- The Community Curator will make themselves available for for in person check in meetings ever 2 weeks, infused with accountability.
- The Community Curator will be available weekly for phone check in meetings.
- The Community Curator will advise, assist and administer with and for Founding Director as needed.
- WHC will work to ensure that this working relationship is mutually beneficial on both ends, while considering this Community Curatoratorial position as a platform for high quality professional development experience for those who are willing to learn about museums, social justice, and arts organizing.

BENEFITS:

For your commitment and hard work ethic, WHC offers enrichment benefits and perks.

- An Honorarium to be determined by availability
- An opportunity to learn more about how grassroots activist museums functions and flow.
- An opportunity to curate shows and be involved in the curatorial process.
- Opportunities to earn quality professional development experiences, conferences, workshops networking.
- Connections to a network of new and like minded museum lovers who are down for social justice,,
- An WHC T-shirt to wear at company events and other branded swag.
- Leadership Opportunities to scale your career to the next level. Take a leadership role as project mgr. executing on deadline with logistics of large scale events, festivals and exhibits.

Qualifications:

- Excellent communication skills, both on the telephone and in-person. Amicable and outgoing, with innate ability to enthusiastically and effectively interface with the public on a daily basis.



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- At least three years in public facing positions including: communications, public affairs, tour guide, sales, customer service, tourism or a related field.
- Ability to adjust to daily operational needs and fully support a small lean startup organizational culture, where everyone does everything. Ability to work well independently and as part of a team, and create a culture of accountability and efficacy among volunteers, interns, subcontractor, artists, art handlers and other collaborators domestically and abroad.
- Bachelor's degree or 2+ years college experience. Preferred fields include communication, museum studies, hospitality, marketing, social work, anthropology and performing arts.
- Willingness to work a flexible schedule including evenings and weekends.
- Fluency in one language other than English is a plus.
- Physically capable of standing for extended periods of time. Ability to lift up to 30 pounds.
- Good Listener, Thoughtful. Demonstrated project management experience; leading and working among diverse people.

WORK 1-2 DAYS PER WEEK - MODEST STIPEND

Send career materials (resume, cover letter, writing samples or artist portfolio)

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Monica O Montgomery, Curator, IPOF Now!
