Grand Rapids Art Museum Steelcase, Inc. Curatorial Fellowship

The Grand Rapids Art Museum seeks applications for the Steelcase Curatorial Fellowship. The fellowship will be awarded to a future or emerging museum professional from an historically underrepresented community within the museum field. Reporting to the Associate Curator and also working closely with the Registrar and Assistant Curator, the ideal fellow will find one or more of the projects outlined below to be useful to their growth as a scholar and museum practitioner.

The fellow will have the opportunity to meet with GRAM colleagues from all departments to further explore all possible avenues for their future career. The fellow will have access to a travel stipend and a stipend for attending conferences to support their professional development. The fellow will have the opportunity to participate in departmental meetings and all-staff meetings as well as observe exhibition installation activities.

Desired Qualifications
The fellow will ideally be a current graduate student or recent graduate, with studies focusing on museum studies, arts administration, art history/visual and material culture studies, history, or non-profit management. They must be well-organized, intellectually curious regarding the objects they are researching, self-motivated, excel at writing and research, and enjoy working collaboratively.

Compensation and Benefits
The fellow will be compensated $12,000 for 500 hours of work, equaling $24 per hour. GRAM is flexible with full- or part-time arrangements to best suit the fellow’s needs, with the fellowship period beginning in fall of 2023 and ending no later than May 2024. The fellow will have access to funds for travel opportunities. If the fellow is based outside of the West Michigan area, they are expected to use those funds to commute on occasion to the museum to view the relevant objects and files in person and for occasional in-person requirements. The fellow will also have access to $1,000 for conferences and professional development opportunities.

Project Proposals

Kravis Collection

In 2019, George R. Kravis II and his estate donated nearly 280 works of design to the Grand Rapids Art Museum – a collection that resonates with West Michigan’s history of excellence in the field of design. Ideal applicants will be interested in the history of 20th century design and material culture. The fellow will produce a research dossier on the collection, consider collection refinement tactics, and produce exhibition content for any future presentations of the objects. A checklist of works within the collection is available upon request; if of interest, please email twarren@artmuseumgr.org.

David Frey Collection

Since 2001, collector David Frey has donated nine paintings to the Grand Rapids Art Museum reflecting his interest in American art between 1840 and 1950 and depicting landscapes and the natural world. The ideal fellow interested in this area of art history would conduct original research on the paintings, contextualizing them within the broader scope of history and art history, and rethinking the objects within contemporary ideological frameworks to offer a multifaceted interpretation of their place within
the art historical canon. The resultant labor will contribute to GRAM’s archives as well as to future exhibitions of this collection. The fellow will also research potential future acquisitions to diversify these holdings with funds from the David Frey Fund.

_Baker Furniture Collection_

Donated to the Grand Rapids Art Museum in the mid-1980s, the Baker Furniture Collection consists of over three hundred historical works of furniture – primarily American and European objects from the 18th and 19th centuries, with several objects from East Asia – collected by Baker Furniture, Inc. Ideal applicants will be interested in historical furniture design and production. The fellow will ultimately produce recommendations for collection refinement as well as contribute research. A checklist of works within the collection is available upon request; if of interest, please email twarren@artmuseumgr.org.

**To Apply**

Please submit the following materials to careers@artmuseumgr.org

- CV/resumé
- Cover letter, outlining project(s) of interest and relevant information pertaining to how the applicant identifies with an underrepresented community, as well as how the desired project(s) would intersect with their professional interests and future goals
- An example of research and/or writing. The form, content, and length can be determined by the applicant as to best showcase their skillset
- 1-2 references