Summer 2020 Curatorial Fellowship
Sponsored by the Steelcase Fellowship Program

The Grand Rapids Art Museum invites applications for the Steelcase/GRAM Fellowship Program, made possible by the generous support of Steelcase Inc. The creation of two new fellowships are to be awarded to scholars from communities historically underrepresented. This program is designed to equip Fellows with a strong knowledge of museum studies, art history, and/or Curatorial with resources and mentorship to support them in their professional careers.

Position Summary:

The Curatorial Fellow will be working with the staff in the Curatorial Department, under the supervision and mentorship of the Chief Curator. The Fellow will play an important role in the development of GRAM’s upcoming traveling exhibition, Dawoud Bey & Carrie Mae Weems: In Dialogue. A primary focus of their Fellowship will be the development of an annotated timeline of images, text and other materials that interweaves these two artists’ personal and professional lives with pertinent art and social history. This project will feature prominently in the exhibition and publication. The project draws from African American history, broader U.S. history and social issues, and American art history and art movements to discern how these various factors influenced the two artists’ respective paths. The Fellow will also assist with various aspects of the exhibition catalog, including copy editing, communication with contributors, obtaining image rights and credit information, and assembling pertinent and necessary information for the publication.

In addition to this focused project, the Fellow will be fully engaged in the Curatorial Department’s operations, including the Department’s engagement with other departments throughout the museum, which involves and attendance at inner and interdepartmental staff meetings. Such experiences provide valuable insight into art museum operations.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

To perform the job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential function satisfactorily. The requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skills and/or ability required. Additional functions and requirements may be assigned by supervisors as deemed appropriate. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

1. Graduate degree
2. Major or previous coursework in art history, arts administration, museum studies, cultural studies, nonprofit management, or closely related field
3. Previous experience working in a museum and/or research setting desirable.
4. Exemplary written and oral communications skills with a honed attention to detail
5. Advanced research and writing skills
6. Outstanding organizational skills and ability to meet deadlines
7. Demonstrated ability to think strategically and to achieve results in a fast-paced, team-oriented environment

Professional Development:

The Fellow will have the opportunity to network and learn from other arts and cultural institutions in West Michigan and from Steelcase Inc. Exact date and location will be made known as soon as possible.

Additional Details:

We will select an intern by April 15, 2020. Internship will take place between June-August for a consecutive 12-week period with an average of 20-25 hour per week. The intern will be given a stipend of $6600.00 for the duration of the fellowship. $1000.00 per month for housing and daily transportation.

The fellow will also be required to lead a presentation or creating an end of semester report, based on a project they completed during their fellowship.

Application Procedure:

This fellowship is open to all qualified candidates with priority given to individuals from diverse backgrounds and historically underrepresented groups in the arts museum field.

Please visit, www.artmuseumgr.org to apply. Please include a cover letter, resume, a copy of your transcript and a reference from a professor or advisor.

After reviewing all applicants, we will contact the selected candidates for interviews. No phone calls or solicitations please. Due to the volume of applications anticipated, only those candidates that most directly meet the requirements of the position will be contacted.

GRAM has a strong commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion