



Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum

Guest Curator Job Description

Job Title: Guest Curator - Great Lakes Indigenous Land Stewardship and Environmental Justice Exhibit

Job Pay: \$20,000, contract position

Hours: Flexible, based on project needs and agreed-upon timeline.

About the Organization:

The Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum, formerly the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, was established in 1977 and, in 2021, reached a significant milestone by becoming a majority Indigenous-led organization in its leadership, staff, and board for the first time since its founding. With full representation in place, the museum has a new mission to increase the visibility and elevate Native voices through education, awareness, and advocacy. We have been working to set a new standard for museums representing Indigenous people using a holistic approach that prioritizes Indigenous representation, collaborative partnerships, rethinking ownership, truth-telling, and accountability. This position is an integral part of supporting this mission.

Brief Description:

We are seeking a Guest Curator to lead the development of an exhibition centered on Indigenous ecological knowledge, land stewardship, and environmental justice among Great Lakes Tribal Nations. The curator will guide a project that highlights how these communities protect their lands, waters, and sovereignty through traditional ecological knowledge and community-led environmental stewardship.

The exhibition will include immersive installations, photographs, artwork, personal stories, programs, and educational resources. These elements will help visitors understand the challenges Tribal Nations face in safeguarding their homelands and treaty rights, as well as their ingenuity and achievements in leading climate action and environmental justice.

Content will address the pressures created by land degradation, pollution, harmful corporate practices, and climate change. The exhibition will also show the resilience and leadership of Great Lakes Indigenous communities in advocating for sovereign rights and environmental stewardship. Displays will highlight sustainable harvesting, community restoration initiatives, and collaborative efforts to protect ecosystems, offering a clear view of Indigenous worldviews, lifeways, and traditional ecological knowledge as essential tools for environmental balance and justice.



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A regional lens will illuminate the ongoing work of Tribal Nations in the states and provinces surrounding the Great Lakes to protect waterways and delicate ecosystems affected by climate change, extractive industries, and unsustainable water use. The Guest Curator will work closely with Indigenous leaders and organizations to ensure the exhibition reflects their depth of ecological knowledge and lived experience throughout the Great Lakes region.

Responsibilities:

- Coordinate with GINM staff to display and create exhibit text and digital content
- Write and edit original interpretive content aimed at enhancing visitor engagement
- Collaborate with museum staff to inform the creation of new text and digital experiences
- Attend virtual meetings to align with project goals and direction
- Research ongoing Land Stewardship, Food Sovereignty programs, and resistance to land degradation and climate change
- Co-write/edit exhibit brochure text
- Co-write object label text for art on display

Qualifications:

- Skilled writer, with the ability to write content for a broad audience
- Knowledgeable about Great Lakes/Woodlands Indigenous cultures and environmental programs
- Organized
- Interpersonal skills
- Ability to attend virtual meetings
- Works collaboratively

If you are interested in applying, send in your resume and cover letter as PDFs to jgackstetter@gichigamiin.org with subject line "Guest Curator Application".