

# Nicole M. Crawford

---

March 5, 2019

Dear Search Committee,

I would like to be considered for the position of Executive Director at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon. I have over 20 years of progressive leadership in curatorial, arts and exhibition management, and museum organizational experience in the public and private art sectors, as well as a terminal degree in museum studies and an advanced degree in art history. I believe my background and experience in overseeing staff, project planning, working with governing boards, public engagement, and budget management would be an asset to the JSMA in the role of Executive Director.

As the Assistant Director and Chief Curator at the UW Art Museum I am familiar with the policies and procedures of the museum as well as the larger university processes. Having worked at two university museums, in a variety of roles, I am able to draw on experience from both institutions for a better understanding of academic museums. I am a voting member on the board of directors for the Association of Academic Museums and Galleries, which provides the support of a larger group of peers in similar academic museum settings.

As Chief Curator I work closely with donors and perspective donors to develop relationships between the collector and the museum. Relationships with donors require careful cultivation since ultimately the museum is asking a collector to part with an object they purposefully acquired. While at the Gerald Peters Gallery I worked with collectors to grow their collection through financial resources. My familiarity with both types of donor relationships allows me to carefully judge the type and approach of ask on behalf of the museum.

My experience with managing budgets and overseeing personnel was refined as I was progressively given more responsibility at the Gerald Peters Gallery over eight years under the tutelage of Mr. Peters, a well-respected leader in the arts as well as a successful entrepreneur. In my tenure at the gallery, where I was appointed Vice President of Gallery Operations and Gallery Director, I managed the daily functions of a staff of over 30. I worked closely with department managers to develop budgets and create long term multi-million dollar financial and management goals as well as being charged with hiring and reviewing performances semi-annually. With the crash of the art market in 2008 I also gained significant experience dealing with dramatic changing economic situations that required strong leadership and difficult decisions. Currently at the UW Art Museum I manage the exhibitions and collections department budget, which includes overseeing endowments, grant funds, and general operating expenses.

I have worked with the current UW Art Museum Director on creating a vision statement for the Art Museum and continue to participate in ongoing strategic planning. I have also been involved with the strategic planning and development of a current vision statement as part of the steering committee for the UW Center for Global Studies and participated in long-range planning for the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research.

I served as a faculty mentor for the Multicultural Student Leadership Initiative with students who support diversity at UW and served on the Hearst Scholarship Committee through Multicultural Affairs. Through both experiences I have gained a greater insight into the issues of diversity for the students on campus and how the museum can support them, especially through reading scholarship applications from a majority of first-generation minority students.

Recognizing the global impact of museums, I have participated in international museum projects that have broadened the UW Art Museum audiences to an international scale through general museum practices consultation, museum professional exchanges, public talks, new study abroad opportunities for students, and exhibitions. All of which have been supported financially by various campus partnerships and have brought new cultural experiences to the existing museum audiences and the larger campus community.

Thank you for taking the time to review my application and please let me know if you require any additional information. I am available to discuss my qualifications further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Nicole M. Crawford