

UMBC: Position Listing for Director of the Center for Art, Design and Visual Culture

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County's ([UMBC](#)) College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences ([CAHSS](#)) seeks a visionary Director to oversee the [mission](#) of the Center for Art, Design and Visual Culture ([CADVC](#)). Reporting to the Dean of CAHSS, the Director will be a vibrant leader with an informed, forward-looking vision of what a university-based art gallery can be, helping both the campus and larger communities realize their values. With demonstrated professional commitment to values of cultural and ethnic diversity, social responsibility and lifelong learning, the Center Director will be a key contributor to forging relations between the Center and academic programs across the college and university. By overseeing the activities of the Center, supervising staff, chairing the CADVC's Advisory Board, and working with faculty, students and other constituencies, the Director will be instrumental in both supporting and raising the visibility of the CADVC within UMBC, throughout the Baltimore-Washington region, nationally and internationally.

This five year, renewable appointment as Director will be at the rank of Professor of the Practice, [see UMBC Faculty Handbook for a description of this rank \(7.j\)](#). Applicants must possess an advanced degree in a relevant field, as well as broad, practical experience and knowledge of museum/gallery work. The expected start date is **July 1, 2022**.

UMBC is classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a Doctoral University with high research activity (RU/H). The university serves more than 11,000 undergraduates and 2,000 graduate students and is one of two public universities in Maryland to achieve the "doctoral/research university-extensive" Carnegie classification. Located just outside Baltimore and 45 minutes from Washington, D.C., the campus is along the dynamic northeast corridor in proximity to federal and private research and technology hubs and internationally renowned art and cultural institutions in Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. US News has cited UMBC as one of the nation's most innovative universities; the Chronicle of Higher Education has consistently included UMBC on its "Great Colleges to Work For" list.

Founded in 1989, the CADVC's mandate is to serve the wide-ranging, liberal-arts mission of the College and the University. As a university art gallery, the CADVC has a well-established reputation for creating forums in which students, faculty, staff, as well as the public, engage in dialogues on contemporary visual culture. Through [diverse, challenging exhibitions](#), a lucid application of cultural theory that builds connections between visual culture and social systems, [rigorously researched catalogs](#), creative exhibition and publication design, and [inclusive, collaborative public programming](#), the CADVC reshapes the interactions between cultural institutions and the public.

The Director will have the unique opportunity to develop, promote, and implement the annual activities of the CADVC that comprise: the production of four to five exhibitions, of which one to two are of national stature; the publication of one to two catalogues or books devoted to contemporary art, graphic design, and critical theory; and the presentation of public programs, related to the Center's exhibition schedule, both at the Center's gallery space and the [Joseph Beuys Sculpture Park](#) on UMBC's campus. These programs include lectures, interdisciplinary panel discussions, screenings, guided gallery tours and a wide variety of workshops for K-12 students. Periodically, the CADVC organizes events in partnership with a range of cultural institutions in Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Responsibilities:

Position Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Manage and implement an annual schedule of in-house exhibitions, national and international traveling exhibitions, an internationally distributed publications series, an extensive K-12 educational outreach program, community outreach, the Joseph Beuys Sculpture Park, and public art projects.
- Curate exhibitions and liaise with UMBC faculty or external curators to conceptualize and organize future exhibitions.
- Submit applications for grant and foundation support and consult with university administrators on strategies to maximize the role of the CADVC in the life of the College and the University.
- Be prepared to advance faculty research in the College and to forge and illuminate cross-disciplinary connections with research across the university by continuing to build on the Center's record of exhibition, publication, and programming.

- Supervise a staff of three full-time employees as well as numerous contractual employees for any given CADVC project and/or initiative.
- Coordinate the promotion of the Center's activities by attending evening CADVC opening receptions, programming events or donor cultivation opportunities, and liaising with UMBC's Office of Arts and Culture.
- Work with the CADVC Business Manager to manage the Center's operating budget of approximately \$50,000 with additional support possible through the annual submission of grant proposals to the Maryland State Arts Council and the Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences.
- Work with the CADVC staff to review the Center's contracts with commercial vendors and companies.
- Teach one course annually in their field of specialization.

Basic Qualifications:

Applicants for the position, at the minimum should:

- Possess a commitment to values of cultural and ethnic diversity, social responsibility, interdisciplinarity, and lifelong learning.
- Be a scholar-professional with an advanced degree in a relevant discipline such as: a PhD in Art History, Visual Culture, Material Culture, or History with a specialization in Public History; an MA in Museum Studies, Arts Administration, Public Humanities, Public History; an MFA in Visual Arts or Design.
- Have professional experience in a museum or gallery with some experience in a progressively responsible, supervisory and management capacity.
- Have demonstrated experience and success in managing a budget and fundraising
- Be able to advocate the mission of the CADVC to both experts and non-experts, with the ability to articulate complex ideas to a wide range of audiences. CADVC stakeholders include a wide range of audiences including faculty, staff, students, and administrators, City and State officials, international experts on art and culture, K-12 students, and visitors to the CADVC gallery.

Application Submission:

Interested applicants are encouraged to submit an application that includes:

- A current curriculum vitae
- A cover letter (up to three pages) outlining qualifications and skills for the position, and describing:
 - relevant work experience in a museum/gallery context
 - relevant experience with fund-raising
 - vision for the advancement of the Center
 - how the position fits with applicant's career goals
- Statement (one page) about your experience in, or commitment to, fostering diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice in your professional life.
- Any relevant documents related to your professional experience
- Names of three references

Starting salary range is in the low to high \$90,000s commensurate with qualifications and experience. Screening of applications will continue until the position is filled, but preference will be given to applications received by **December 1, 2021**. Submit the application materials electronically to <http://apply.interfolio.com/95239>

UMBC is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer:

Diversity is a core value of the University, the College, and the Center. We believe that innovation and creativity are enhanced when diverse groups of people come together to learn. UMBC is committed to inclusive excellence and is especially proud of the [diversity of its 14,000 undergraduate and graduate students](#). We are equally committed to increasing faculty diversity by attracting a diverse applicant pool for this position. Information on faculty diversity initiatives is available at <http://facultydiversity.umbc.edu>. We encourage applications from women, minority group members, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. Resources to help balance work and personal priorities are available at <http://hr.umbc.edu/work-life-balance/>. Candidates with a proven record of working with diverse and/or under-served populations are particularly encouraged to apply. Preference is given to candidates who demonstrate the potential for building an equitable and diverse workplace environment in the CADVC.

Direct questions to Dr. Carolyn Forestiere (forestie@umbc.edu), Chair, CADVC Search Committee

An Overview of the CADVC and its Role within the University

[The Center for Art, Design and Visual Culture \(CADVC\)](#) is a non-profit art gallery and one of the five research centers within the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences ([CAHSS](#)) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County ([UMBC](#)). Founded in 1989, the CADVC's mandate is to serve the wide-ranging, liberal-arts mission of the College and the University. Over the past three decades, the CADVC has emerged as a leading curatorial force nationally through the production of [diverse, challenging exhibitions](#), [rigorously researched catalogs](#), award-winning exhibition and publication design, and [inclusive, collaborative public programming](#).

Facilities and Operations: Comprising 3000 square feet of gallery space within the Fine Arts building and a two-acre [Joseph Beuys Sculpture Park](#) on UMBC's campus, the CADVC serves as the university's principal exhibition space—a forum for students, faculty, and staff, as well as the general public to experience contemporary visual culture and to dialogue about important cultural and aesthetic issues. The CADVC's operations are managed by the Director who reports to the Dean of CAHSS. The Director is assisted by three full-time staff. Additional services are contracted through grants and foundation funding. The CADVC's internal budget of \$50,000 is regularly doubled through grants from state and national external sponsors. The CADVC has an Internal Advisory Board comprised of eight tenured faculty members and senior members of the administration.

Exhibitions: The curatorial reach and rigor of CADVC exhibitions have garnered national and international acclaim. Annual activities of the CADVC include the production of four to five innovative and groundbreaking exhibitions, of which one or two are of national stature. [Past exhibitions](#) include: Adrian Piper: A Retrospective 1965-2000 (2000), For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights (2013), Muntadas: Activating Artifacts: About Academia (2017), and Museum of the Old Colony: An Art Installation by Pablo Delano (2020). CADVC exhibitions have traveled to many of the nation's most prominent museums including The Studio Museum in Harlem (New York) and the Smithsonian American History Museum (Washington DC). CADVC exhibitions have received extensive national coverage through critical reviews in major news outlets including the Baltimore Sun, the New York Times, The Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, NPR, as well as national and international art and design journals including Art in America and Art Journal.

Publications: Since 1997 the CADVC has annually published one to two catalogues or books devoted to contemporary art, graphic design, and critical theory that are distributed internationally through Distributed Art Publishers (D.A.P.). These publications have consistently won the highest honors in the museum field in the category of Scholarly Journals and Exhibition Catalogues through the American Association of Museums and the American Institute of Graphic Design.

Programming: The CADVC is committed to rethinking the relationship between art institutions and the public through the presentation of programs that include lectures, interdisciplinary panel discussions, screenings, guided gallery tours and a wide variety of workshops for K-12 students. On average, the CADVC partners with four to six schools each year through educational outreach that includes guided tours of the exhibitions, post-tour discussions, curriculum packets utilizing multiple disciplines, intensive month-long workshop sessions in the schools and presentation of completed projects on the UMBC campus and community centers in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Thousands of students have participated in the art programs developed by CADVC, often working with UMBC graduate and undergraduate students and UMBC faculty. Examples of CADVC's outreach include: the [OCAMocha Kids Club](#), [Seeing Science](#), and [Stories from the Struggle for Civil Rights](#). Periodically, the CADVC organizes events in partnership with a range of prominent cultural institutions in Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Partnerships: The CADVC has a productive history of partnering with a variety of academic departments and offices at UMBC in relation to K-12 educational outreach and other programs. Past partners include the Shriver Center, the Honors College, CAHSS Research Centers, Student Life Office, the Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery, and Students for Environmental Awareness and several departments within CAHSS and across campus. The CADVC will continue to reach out more fully to other departments and programs. As well, the CADVC has forged more than thirty partnerships with organizations in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area often driven by the exhibition programs.