



Job Title: Chief Curator
Reports to: President & CEO

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The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI), founded in 1992 and inspired by Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, a bold, charismatic minister who used his pulpit to forcefully protest Jim Crow segregation despite three dynamite attacks on his church. BCRI is an educational, cultural and research center that promotes a comprehensive understanding for the significance of the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham. BCRI is part of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument established on January 12, 2017 by former President Barack Obama. BCRI's mission is to interpret the past realistically, promote understanding of the present and foster racial equality and civil and human rights for present and future generations.

BCRI is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Institute does not discriminate because of age, sex, religion, race, color, creed, national origin, alienage or citizenship, sexual orientation or any other factor prohibited by law. The Institute hires and promotes individuals solely on the basis of their qualifications for the job to be filled. The Institute encourages all qualified candidates to apply for vacant positions at all levels. This description shall not be construed as a contract for a specific period of employment.

Responsibilities

The Chief Curator leads and directs the curatorial work and programmatic development of the Institute reporting to the President and CEO. The Chief Curator duties includes:

- Oversees the care, documentation and scholarship of BCRI's permanent collection in a manner that maintains clear, consistent documentation.
- Responsible for research on collections and related topics.
- Planning, implementation, installation and interpretation of exhibitions including temporary, online and traveling exhibits.
- Oversees preparation of exhibition labels, collateral materials, panels and other educational materials.
- Using digital and physical records to track, store and locate all collections and keeping records updated.
- Train staff as needed to assist with digitization of collection records.
- Identify and pursues potential external funding including grant writing to support collections and programmatic efforts.
- Respond to scholarly requests from external researchers and organizations in a timely manner.
- Assist and support the VP of Education with the development of public programs, workshops and exhibitions.
- Ability to effectively recruit, manage, and inspire a nimble, creative team that is committed to equity and inclusion.
- Engage racially and economically diverse audiences (e.g., native American, Latinx, immigrant, Jewish) from the greater Birmingham area, the nation and the world.
- Work collaboratively with staff to develop, prepare, and promote lectures, gallery talks, presentations, and special events as needed.

Qualifications

- A strong record of research, scholarship and public speaking with experience acquiring, organizing, producing and executing exhibitions, programs and publications of the highest quality.
- A deep understanding of social justice issues and knowledge about civil and human rights issues in the U.S. and beyond from an historical, intersectional, and contemporary perspective.
- Skilled in building and maintaining positive and mutually beneficial relationships with board members, donors, local institutions and community members.
- Demonstrated supervisory, public speaking, writing, organizational and interpersonal skills.
- Knowledge and experience regarding a broad range of technology, especially interactive and digital applications, designed to engage audiences in a dynamic learning environment.
- Ability to manage multiple projects.
- Ability to work collaboratively with staff and volunteers in a team approach in planning and implementation of collections and exhibit activities.
- Knowledge of collecting and exhibiting ethics.

Education and Experience

- Master's degree in History, Museum Studies, Archival Studies, Library Sciences, African American Studies, or related fields (PhD preferred)
- Must have at least 2 – 4 years' relevant work experience in a collections or archival setting with a proven record of substantial contributions to public education, community engagement and innovative programming
- Experience presenting public programs preferred.

Physical Requirements

- Ability to sit and stand for considerable lengths of time.
- Ability to maintain visual attention for extended periods of time.
- Ability to operate computers and general office equipment.
- Regularly lift and/or move up to 40 lbs. and lift and/or move heavier loads as needed.
- Must be able to ascend and descend stairs on a regular basis.
- Ability to work evenings and weekends as required for special events.

Application Instructions

Please submit resume and cover letter to hr@bcri.org.

***About BCRI:** The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute is a cultural and educational research center that promotes a comprehensive understanding for the significance of The Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham. For nearly three decades, we have enlightened each generation about civil and human rights. A part of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument and an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, we stand strong as the cornerstone of the civil rights story, a living memorial with an ongoing mission.*