



contemporary craft
press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contemporary Craft Announces Emerging Black Arts Leaders Program
Strip District Arts Organization Committed to Increased Diversity in Museum Employment

PITTSBURGH, PA – June 21, 2016 – In June 2015, the first comprehensive survey of diversity in American art museums was released by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in partnership with the Association of Art Museum Directors and the American Alliance of Museums. The report illustrated a troubling underrepresentation of people of color on museum staffs, with only 4% of museum curators, conservators, and educators identifying as African-American. The Society for Contemporary Craft’s (SCC) new Emerging Black Arts Leaders program addresses this staggering disparity by awarding a one-year apprenticeship, which pays a monthly stipend, to a talented emerging arts leader of color.

“We are committed to providing employment and mentoring opportunities for young individuals of color,” says SCC Executive Director Janet McCall. “By ensuring these emerging arts managers are prepared to successfully enter the leadership pipeline, we are ensuring a future where the demographics of museum employees more closely match the vibrant diversity of our society as a whole.”

The new position builds upon the organization’s demonstrated success in enhancing the development of future arts leader through a variety of scholarship and internship program aimed at the next generation of arts managers. Through on-the-job training in a professional arts organization, the apprentice will gain the artistic and business skills required to succeed in the field today. The program also provides mentoring from SCC staff and artists, professional development, and networking opportunities within the regional arts community. In addition to hands-on experience in managing a contemporary art gallery program, the apprentice will learn to navigate the intricacies of a complex nonprofit environment, and assist with exhibition openings, artist lectures, visiting artist workshops, and fundraising events.

The Emerging Black Arts Leaders program evolved from two successful SCC models: the Judy G. Cheteyan Scholar program, which has provided a paid internship to an outstanding art or arts management student every summer since its inception in 2002, and the Windgate Foundation Studio Apprenticeship launched in 2012 in SCC’s education department.

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Emerging Black Arts Leaders, 2

A complete job description for the Emerging Black Arts Leaders apprenticeship can be found on SCC's website (www.contemporarycraft.org) under *Opportunities - Internships*. Preferred applicants should identify as black, African-American, and/or of African diasporic origins and demonstrate a commitment to pursuing a career in arts management. Applicants should be recent college graduates (having completed a BA or equivalent, within the last three years), but candidates with alternative experience may be considered. To apply, candidates should submit an essay about how this opportunity will enhance his/her career path and submit at least two professional recommendation letters that demonstrate their future promise as an arts leader. Applications will be accepted through July 31, 2016. The final candidate will be notified by August 10, 2016 with the apprenticeship period starting September 1, 2016.

The Emerging Black Arts Leaders program is generously supported by the Opportunity Fund (www.theopportunityfund.org).

ABOUT CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

Presenting contemporary art in craft media by regional, national, and international artists since 1971, the Society for Contemporary Craft (SCC) offers cutting edge exhibitions focusing on multicultural diversity and non-mainstream art, as well as a range of studio workshops, community outreach programs, and a retail store. Through its mission of engaging the public in creative experiences through contemporary craft, SCC offers meaningful art opportunities for more than 145,000 people a year through four core values: providing vital support for artists; filling critical gaps in public education; sharing cross cultural perspectives; and using art to build community. SCC is located at 2100 Smallman Street in the Strip District of Pittsburgh, PA. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The satellite gallery is located in the "T" station lobby of BNY Mellon Center in downtown Pittsburgh, and is open daily from 6:00 am through midnight. Exhibitions and informal, hands-on art activities in the Drop-In Studio are always free to the public. For more information, visit www.contemporarycraft.org or call 412.261.7003.

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