

# Contemporary Craft

## Emerging Black Arts Leader Apprenticeship



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. Contemporary Craft's (CC) new Emerging Black Arts Leader program addresses this disparity by awarding a ten-month 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 CC Executive Director Janet McCall. "By helping these emerging arts managers prepare 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 ten-month management apprenticeship will provide career-readiness skills and mentoring to increase the employability of a talented emerging arts manager of color. Through on-the-job training in a professional arts organization, the program will equip the apprentice with supplemental artistic and business skills required to succeed in the field today. The Emerging Black Arts Leader Apprentice will also benefit from professional development and networking opportunities within the regional arts community. With hands-on experience working at a contemporary art center, the apprentice will learn to navigate the intricacies of a complex nonprofit environment, and assist with exhibition and education programs, fundraising, and special events. This position is made possible with support from the Opportunity Fund.

**Deadline April 30**

### Contemporary Craft

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## Host Organization

Presenting contemporary art in craft media by international, national and regional artists since 1971, Pittsburgh-based Contemporary Craft offers cutting edge exhibitions focused on multicultural diversity and non-mainstream art, as well as a range of classes, community outreach programs, and a retail store. Through its mission of engaging the public in creative experiences through contemporary craft, CC offers meaningful art opportunities for 145,000 people a year.

## Application Information

The Apprentice will receive a monthly stipend during the ten-month apprenticeship. CC will notify the recipient of the scholarship by letter by **May 31<sup>st</sup>**. The selected applicant will be responsible for food and housing.

## Requirements and Qualifications

CC will evaluate candidates based on the following criteria:

- Preferred applicants should identify as black, African-American, and/or of African diasporic origins and demonstrate a commitment to pursuing an arts management career.
- Preferred candidates should demonstrate a commitment to visual arts; knowledge of contemporary craft is a plus.
- Candidates may be a recent college graduate (having completed a BA or equivalent, within the last three years). Individuals with alternative experience may be considered.
- Candidates should submit a brief essay about how this opportunity will enhance their career path.
- Two professional recommendation letters should address the applicant's future promise as an arts leader.

## Submitting Applications

Applications must be submitted online by **April 30, 2018** at:

<https://form.jotform.com/SCCraft/2018EBALA>.

Early applications are encouraged! All applicants will be notified of the committee's decision by May 31<sup>st</sup>. All committee decisions are final.

CC provides equal employment opportunity (EEO) to qualified individuals regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability or genetics.