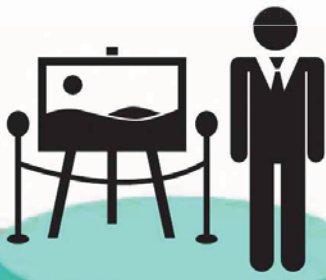
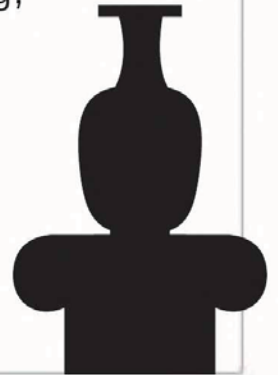


MUSEUM CURATOR



JOB DESCRIPTION

A museum or gallery curator manages a collection of historical artifacts or works of art, overseeing exhibitions and new initiatives. This role can involve acquiring, caring for, displaying, and interpreting exhibits, as well as marketing and fundraising activities. Curators also manage budgets and staff, and build relationships with donors, partner institutions, and artists and artist estates.



SALARY

Curatorial assistant ★★★★★
Head curator ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Funding falls during economic downturns • Employers include museums, galleries, and heritage sites • Growth in contract work, but fewer permanent positions available

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Art • History • Languages • Archaeology • Science • Design • Education • Architecture • Information Technology (IT)



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS A degree is required and postgraduate study is desirable. Larger museums recruit graduates as apprentice curators.



LIFESTYLE Full-time curators usually have regular hours, but working on evenings and weekends is common when preparing for an exhibition.



LOCATION Most work is based at a museum, gallery, or heritage site. Travel may be necessary to attend conferences or deliver artifacts.



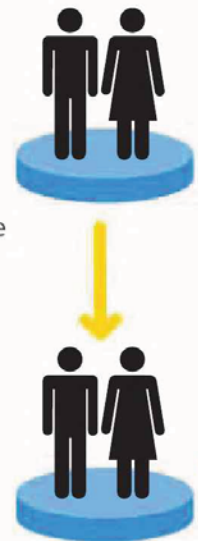
THE REALITIES Competition for jobs is strong, so working in a lower-paid assistant-level position is necessary to gain sufficient experience to progress.

CAREER PATHS

Museum curators usually hold a degree or postgraduate qualification, and often contribute to research or teaching in their specialized area of interest. Reputation and expertise can lead to a role in a larger, more prestigious collection of exhibits, or a senior position in museum management.

MUSEUM ASSISTANT You can apply for jobs as a clerical or visitor-services assistant at a museum or gallery straight from high school. You will need good grades in history, English, or a related subject. Work experience in a museum is beneficial.

GRADUATE You can earn a degree in museum- or heritage-studies, but an undergraduate or graduate qualification in a subject relevant to a particular collection may qualify you to apply for junior or assistant curating posts.



▼ RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **ANTIQUÉ DEALER** Uses historical expertise and commercial acumen to buy and sell antique items. Antique dealers may be employed by an auction house or work on a self-employed basis.
- ▶ **ARCHAEOLOGIST** Investigates past human activities by excavating and analyzing material remains, from fragments of bone or pottery to ancient ruins or buried structures. The role also involves recording, preserving, and interpreting remains, as well as publishing findings to improve our knowledge and understanding of the past.
- ▶ **ARCHIVIST** Stores, catalogs, and maintains documents and other materials of historical significance. Employers can range from national institutions with extensive archives to wealthy individuals with private collections.

SKILLS GUIDE



Excellent verbal and written communication skills to give talks and write articles and reports.



Strong IT skills for creating a variety of web-based and printed materials.



A creative flair for presenting exhibits and displays in engaging and informative ways.



Good organizational abilities to secure a variety of new exhibits through loans and acquisitions.



The ability to manage staff and links with stakeholders, such as governors and funding groups.

HEAD CURATOR

Manages the activities of a team of curators and oversees the functions of their individual departments, usually in a larger museum or gallery.



MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Oversees the collection held by a museum, manages personnel and operations, and ensures that the objectives set by the museum's board of governors are fulfilled.



HEAD OF EXHIBITIONS

Specializes in planning, organizing, and marketing permanent or temporary exhibitions at a museum.



CONSERVATOR

Preserves artifacts or works of art by controlling the environment in which objects are stored. A conservator may also restore damaged items using specialty conservation methods.



MUSEUM CURATOR Most curators spend at least two years as an assistant before becoming a curator. You can choose to specialize in an area of academic research, or move into senior and management roles.