

Teaching Artist

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum hires Teaching Artists to plan and implement hands-on workshops for families, school programs, after-school programs, summer camp sessions, and other programs for all ages that feature or include art making. Teaching artists are integral to the Museum's core mission of bringing artists and audiences together in creative and stimulating ways.

Responsibilities will include, but are not limited to:

- Developing age- and contextually-appropriate lesson plans, directed by and/or in coordination with Museum Education staff.
- Providing arts instruction to participants of varying ages, backgrounds, and art-making experience
- Preparing, coordinating, and obtaining equipment, materials, and supplies for classes
- Participating in training, program development, and program/project assessment with Museum Education staff as required
- Submitting project/program documentation, including, but not limited to: final lesson plans, annotated notes on the teaching experience (including observations on student performance, collaboration, and overall learning), complete materials list, and photographs of completed projects
- Other duties will be assigned as required

Requirements

Candidates should have demonstrated experience in art discipline (Bachelor's degree, MFA or related training preferred) and a minimum of two years' experience in an arts and teaching environment. In addition, the ideal candidate:

- **Is able to create safe, inclusive, supportive, and creative environments for children, youth, adults, and volunteers**
- **Desires to experiment with new techniques and has the capacity to adapt them and teach them to others**
- **Desires to work with diverse populations (i.e. age, gender, class, sexual orientation, ethnicity, etc.)**
- **Is capable of performing in busy, non-traditional classroom and gallery settings**
- **Has strong organizational skills and attention to detail, with a proven ability to manage multiple tasks and priorities, plan ahead, anticipate and articulate program needs, and work independently while keeping open communication and status reports**
- **Is able to problem-solve, be flexible, imaginative, and innovative**

Application Instructions

Please send a current résumé and cover letter, providing detailed information on your academic, artistic, and professional experience, to tmoore@aldrichart.org.

Please include a brief description of a sample 45-minute lesson or hands-on art-making workshop, for students in grades 3 to 5 OR 7 to 10, engaging the work of a current Aldrich exhibiting artist. If you specialize in teaching a specific age group other than the two options listed above, please indicate that age group and submit materials aligned with that age group. Please include an age appropriate introduction to the artist's work and a materials list, if applicable. Information about exhibiting artists can be found at aldrichart.org/exhibitions

In the subject line of your email, please state your first and last name, and Teaching Artist. The Aldrich accepts applications on a rolling basis. No phone calls, please.

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum is an equal opportunity employer.

Public Programs and School and Teacher Initiatives

Our Programmatic Approach and Philosophy

We believe the nature of contemporary art is constantly changing, and that The Aldrich can be at the forefront of these changes by staying true to our core mission of bringing artists and audiences together in creative and stimulating ways.

The Aldrich is an artist-driven institution, where the ideas and efforts of the artists with whom we engage, and how we present the artists' concepts and endeavors to diverse audiences, form the character of the Museum. Through its system of themed semester exhibitions and related programs for audiences of all ages, The Aldrich presents experiences to the public that are expansive, rigorous, often provocative, and always idea-driven, but not constrained by traditional boundaries or definitions.

In bringing art, the artists who have made it, and thought leaders from related fields and disciplines to the Museum, we are constantly looking for potential connections between the ideas explored in the exhibitions and the world at large. Through this lens, the public programs strive to identify new audiences and to draw to the institution people who may have never seen themselves as fans of contemporary art, or for that matter, as museumgoers.

The Museum endeavors to create a community that is bound together by the sharing of thoughtful experience, natural curiosity, respect for different points of view, and a love for the complex manifestations of visual culture. We also believe that collaborations and partnerships with outside groups, schools, educators, individuals, organizations, and institutions are key to our mission and will help to grow our audience. By being an incubator for ideas and a place for discourse and critical exchange, we strive to integrate the Museum into the fabric of our broadly defined community, and the lives of the individuals who comprise it.

Public Programs for All Ages

The Culturally Curious category is comprised of programs and events for adults, artists, educators, and teens, and includes these types of programs:

- **Talks:** panels and lectures by thought leaders from the art world and related disciplines, author talks, exhibiting artists' presentations.
- **Monthly Tours:** by curators and other experts with unique perspectives about the art on view.
- **Workshops:** hands-on art making taught by experienced artists and artisans.
- **Events:** First Fridays monthly cocktail hour, exhibition openings, and members' previews.
- **Performances:** film screenings, poetry readings, and musical performances.
- **Portfolio Days series:** designed to provide support, guidance, and resources to young artists preparing to apply to art school or considering applying. The series consists of two opportunities: Portfolio Talk by an admissions officer, and Portfolio Review Day with admissions staff from over twenty art schools on site at the Museum to review portfolios and give advice.

The Creative Family grouping includes options for youth and families, and includes these types of exhibition-inspired programs:

- **Camp Aldrich:** Weeklong full-day summer program where children in grades 1 through 10 (including free scholarship students that comprise 20% of the enrollment) work directly with visual artists in the galleries to discover process and materials, engage in peer-to-peer learning, and create an exhibition for their families.
- **Third Saturdays –Family Art Experiences:** Direct access to art and art-making provided through monthly workshops in which the teaching artist reveals process, promotes creativity, and encourages the children to lead the inter-generational art-making sessions.
- **Aldrich Discovers:** Free facilitated weekday afternoon workshops when school is out where

families and children are encouraged to work and learn together, focusing on collaborative problem-solving.

- **Drop-Ins:** Open-ended weekend art-making sessions that invite children and caregivers to select from a range of traditional and unexpected materials inspired by the exhibitions and display their work at the Museum.

Initiatives for Schools and Teachers

The Aldrich connects educators and students to contemporary art through innovative learning approaches. A range of opportunities incorporates different strategies to explore exhibitions, artists' practice and the contemporary art world both at The Museum and through in-service programs.

- **Curriculum-driven Class Visits (all ages):** Students at any grade level, from Pre K to university, explore the current exhibitions with a Museum docent who emphasizes careful observation through inquiry-based strategies, and introduces themes to help students develop visual thinking and communication skills. School tours can be tailored to focus on a particular theme or to incorporate a writing exercise or art making activity.
- **ArtWrite (Grade 3 – 12):** A program that uses works of art on view in The Museum as inspiration for critical thinking and writing. The student writing projects, completed in the galleries and back in the classroom, explore connections between classroom learning, contemporary art and their everyday lives.
- **Art Onsite (Preschool to K):** A multi-visit program, which complements school curriculum, provides young children with the opportunity to make The Museum their classroom and art studio. Classes explore the work on view in the galleries, read stories, and participate in hands-on art making activities.
- **Common Ground: A School-Museum-Artist Curriculum Partnership:** A newly launched initiative of The Aldrich, Common Ground is a partnership program between the Museum, exhibiting artists, and three partner schools. Artists, viewed by The Aldrich as inspirational creative thinkers with a noteworthy ability to see the world through broad-reaching and cross-disciplinary perspectives, will work directly with students in a week-long classroom residency to explore ideas, collaborate to make art, and take ownership of their learning experiences. The program targets the requirements of the Common Core State Standards. The Museum's artists-in-residence also work with teachers, administrators, and Museum educators on innovative curriculum development across subjects. The resources for teachers developed in this 2014/2015 pilot program will be adapted for use by the education community throughout the region.

- **School-in-Residence (Grades 3–12):** Entire classes or grades spend a complete school day or more immersed at The Aldrich looking at contemporary art and exploring interdisciplinary topics such as English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science. With the entire Museum as a classroom and laboratory—and with the exhibitions, grounds, and architecture as resources—teachers will work with Museum educators to develop lesson plans that engage contemporary art as a tool for teaching critical thinking in all disciplines, in a non-traditional setting.
- **Teachers’ Professional Development:** Throughout the academic year, The Museum offers in-service sessions both at the Museum and in schools to teachers of all subjects and grade levels. Workshops focus on a range of topics, including addressing the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, Humanities, and Science, creative strategies for arts integration in the classroom, and always include an exploration of the art on view.
- **Teacher Advisory Committee:** Invited educators from all disciplines serve as a vital resource for the development of school programs and help The Museum understand current issues facing teachers and administrators. Committee members work with Aldrich staff to review lesson plans, materials, and evaluation tools associated with the existing school and teacher programs and serves as critical partners in conceiving, piloting, and assessing new program initiatives.
- **Evenings for Educators:** During an exhibition, the Aldrich offers the opportunity for teachers, school administrators, and community educators to mingle with colleagues receive a tour of the newly mounted exhibitions and learn about The Museum’s wide variety of school programs and teacher resources.

Internships

The Aldrich Internship Program offers high school and college students the opportunity to build professional skills and relationships with experienced mentors through the school year and summer. With unparalleled access to artists, museum professionals, and insights into the development of education programs, internships support career and college readiness and supplement school learning by focusing on students’ self-directed interests.

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum Non-Discrimination Policy

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum is committed to:

- **The goal of achieving equal opportunity for all.**
- **Providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of the community.**
- **Providing an inclusive and nondiscriminatory work environment in which all employees are valued and empowered to succeed.**
- **Providing a workplace free from harassment of all kinds.**
- **Compliance with all federal and state legislation and regulations regarding non-discrimination.**

Consistent with these principles, The Aldrich does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, expression and characteristics, age, religion, national or ethnic origin, visible or invisible disability, veteran status, or any other protected status.

