Teaching Artist for School Collaboration

Position: Teaching Artist
Location: Virginia MOCA and Off-site locations
Duration: August 2024- January 2025
Application Deadline: Sunday, July 7, 2024

Overview: Virginia MOCA, in collaboration with Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS), seeks a dynamic and experienced Teaching Artist to assist in the creation of an environmentally themed public art installation. This project will involve students from a local elementary school (5th graders) and Environmental Studies students (12th graders). Through this project, students will transform their experiences and knowledge into an outdoor sculpture that promotes environmental awareness and stewardship. In addition to producing the sculpture, the overall goal of this project is to foster students’ personal connections, curiosity and responsibility for their local environment.

Project Background: This project was inspired by two Virginia MOCA exhibitions. In Year 1 (2023-2024) and in response to Mark Dion and Alexis Rockman: Journey to Nature’s Underworld, students worked in handmade nature journals to document their observations of the local watershed and ecosystems. These journals served as a foundation for understanding and appreciating their natural surroundings. In Year 2 (2024-2025) and in response to Virginia MOCA’s upcoming exhibition with artist Duke Riley, students will transform their observations and knowledge into a collaborative outdoor sculpture, guided by the Teaching Artist. The final artwork will be displayed on the grounds of Virginia MOCA through 2025.

Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with Virginia MOCA staff and Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) educators to design a thoughtful learning experience that will work towards desired outcomes.
- Guide and mentor students through the creative process, from conceptualization to the completion of the sculpture.
- Facilitate hands-on making sessions, teaching students various artistic techniques and materials relevant to outdoor sculpture.
- Collaborate with the school’s art teacher to develop ideas and determine next steps in the creative process.
- Ensure the artistic integrity and environmental relevance of the student-created sculptures.
- Oversee the installation of the final artwork on the Virginia MOCA grounds.
• Attend regular project meetings and provide progress updates to collaborators in alignment with project deadlines and budget.

**Qualifications:**

• Proven experience as a Teaching Artist, preferably with experience in public art.
• Background in sculpture and familiarity with materials suitable for outdoor installations.
• Excellent communication and organizational skills.
• Ability to work collaboratively with students, educators, and museum staff.
• Interest in environmental education and sustainable art practices.
• Flexibility to adapt to the needs and pace of the project and its participants.
• Background check clearance required for working with students.
• Must have a reliable method of transportation.

**Compensation:** A work stipend of $3,000, supplies provided.

**Application Process:** Interested candidates should submit the following:

• A cover letter detailing your interest in the project and relevant experience.
• A resume or CV highlighting your qualifications.
• A portfolio or examples of previous work, particularly any relevant public art or environmental projects.
• Contact information for three professional references.

Please submit your [online application](#) by Sunday, July 7, 2024.