The Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition is excited to announce the return of the Oklahoma Curatorial Fellowship—previously the Oklahoma Art Writing & Curatorial Fellowship—and is accepting applications beginning June 16, 2023, through July 16, 2023, at 11:59 pm.

The Oklahoma Curatorial Fellowship invites up to 8 Fellows to participate in this 10-month program, beginning in October 2023 and ending in August 2024, with the possibility of exhibitions running through Fall 2024. OVAC is proud to offer the newly revitalized program for a fifth iteration, building on the program history from 2010, 2012, 2015, and 2018.

The Oklahoma Curatorial Fellowship trains promising emerging curators by catalyzing creative connections and advancing art careers through mentorship, professional development, and hands-on workshops emphasizing curatorial practices and writing. The Fellows culminate the program with realized exhibitions and public programming at prominent gallery spaces in Oklahoma and publish written essays in OVAC’s quarterly magazine, Art Focus Oklahoma. This 10-month Fellowship begins in October 2023 and ends in August 2024, with exhibition programming potentially running through Fall 2024. Up to 8 fellows are selected from a regional (OK, AK, KS, TX, NM, CO, MO) pool of applicants to form a cohort led by esteemed mentors representing leaders and professionals in the fields of curation, writing, and academia.

The Fellowship welcomes individuals and co-curatorial teams (no more than three participants per team) from the region (OK, AK, KS, TX, NM, CO, MO) to apply. Fellows are selected based on education and experience. Prior curatorial experience is not required but recommended. This program is ideal for individuals who have worked in museums, galleries, arts-related areas, studied art, art history, or any related experience, and are looking to further their professional curatorial goals.

Please direct any application questions to programs@ovac-ok.org or call 405-879-2400.

**PROGRAM DETAILS:**

**Confirmed Mentors (more to be added):**

- **Lindsay Aveilhe, Lead Mentor,** Independent Curator and Consultant, Director Gardiner Gallery of Art Bartlett Center for the Visual Arts at Oklahoma State University, Tulsa, OK
- **Carina Evangelista,** Senior Director of Curatorial Affairs, Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center, Oklahoma City, OK
- **Kate Green,** Chief Curator & Nancy E. Meinig Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, OK
- **Alice Gray Stites,** Chief Curator & Museum Director, 21C Museum Hotel, Louisville, KY
Requirements for Fellows:

- Must be 21 years old by the start of the Fellowship.
- Must have a permanent address in the region (OK, AK, KS, TX, NM, CO, MO) and be able to travel to Oklahoma City and Tulsa*. (Travel costs/accommodations not provided.)
- Applicants may either be individuals or co-curatorial teams of no more than three members with only one Lead Applicant and application per team.
- Participate in all ten months of the Fellowship. (Virtual and in-person schedule.)
- Attend six in-person panel discussions & workshops.
- Read assigned texts monthly.
- Prepare assigned written texts (200 – 1500 words) throughout the program.
- Participate in small-group workshop sessions outside of the in-person meetings, as necessary. (Can be virtual.)
- Visit art exhibitions at various museums and galleries.
- Submit one prepared text (750 – 1500 words) and supporting images to the Lead Mentor/Art Focus Editor by the assigned deadline for the final project published in Art Focus Oklahoma.
- Remain open to new ideas and criticism and treat Mentors, OVAC staff, and fellow participants with respect.

*Fellows are responsible for costs associated with travel, purchasing reading material as assigned, and other incidental costs. The organizers absorb all other program costs.

Oklahoma Curatorial Fellowship provides:

- A stipend disbursed to each Fellow (teams will be considered one (1) Fellow). No co-curatorial teams exceeding three members.
- Bi-monthly professional development sessions and one-on-one conversations with experienced mentors.
- Workshops with OVAC’s professional network of field experts, partner organizations, and guest speakers.
- Publication of written material in one issue of OVAC’s quarterly magazine, Art Focus Oklahoma.
- Opportunity to curate, plan, and implement an exhibition at a prominent gallery space in Oklahoma.
- Opportunity to design and present exhibition-related public programming to an audience in Oklahoma.

Required materials for Application:

- Resume
- Bio demonstrating relevant experience in the arts. Please specify any engagement with the visual arts and if you have any experience in art curation. (250 words max.)
- Description of curatorial proposal or artistic themes of interest the applicant would pursue through the Fellowship and curate as an exhibition. (500 words max.)
- Preliminary list of artists or types of artworks relevant to the proposed project/themes. (300 words max.)
- Proposal for any public programming related to the curatorial proposal. (200 words max.)
- Description of how the Fellowship and mentorship will impact the applicant’s practice and career. (250 words max.)
- List of three references. (Include name, relationship, phone number, and email.)
Eligibility:

- Applicants should be actively engaged in the visual arts and interested in writing about and creating exhibitions of living artists from the region. They also should have a demonstrated passion for contemporary art and the potential to produce exceptional writing. Applicants should be able to commit to the program, attend scheduled events, and meet assignments for successful completion. Graduate and post-graduate students are eligible to apply. Undergraduate students are not eligible. Past Fellows are not eligible.

How to apply:

- Submit online here. All information submitted on the application form must be in English. Carefully review the application instructions and ensure the email address provided is active. Applicants will be notified by email. All information is strictly confidential. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

- DEADLINE: July 16, 2023, 11:59 pm

Selection Procedure:

- The selection process aims to identify applicants who wish to advance their curatorial practices with innovative projects and further OVAC's mission to grow and develop Oklahoma's visual arts community through education, promotion, connection, and funding.

- A panel of experts with experience in the fields of curating, writing, and academia, will make Fellow selections based primarily on the applicants' curatorial proposal/interests and their desire to join our program at this particular point in their career. The Oklahoma Curatorial Fellowship encourages and welcomes applicants of all backgrounds to apply. OVAC does not discriminate based on age, race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, religion, marital status, or nation of origin.

- Selected applicants will be contacted in August 2023 for interviews, with the final cohort announced by September 1.

Workshop Dates and Locations:

- In-person programming occurs at various art and cultural sites in and around Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Fellows must cover the cost of travel to and from program sites.
- Listed are the in-person workshops occurring in either Tulsa or Oklahoma City. Other virtual meetings TBD by Fellows and Mentors; workshop schedule subject to change.
  
  - October 14, 2023: Orientation/Workshop 1
  - December 9, 2023: Workshop 2
  - February 3, 2024: Workshop 3
  - April 13, 2024: Workshop 4
  - June 8, 2024: Workshop 5
  - August 10, 2024: Workshop 6/Conclusion

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