



50 Years and Looking Forward

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**The Bronx Council on the Arts Announces
2012 Intensive Art Handler Training Program Online Applications are Available**

(February 6, 2012 – Bronx) Bronx Council on the Arts' Fine Arts & Technical Services is pleased to announce that online applications are now available for the 2012 Intensive Art Handler Training Program (AHTP). The AHTP application process is competitive and open to individuals looking to pursue a career in the art handling / fine arts industry. **The deadline for online submissions and other required documentation is Friday, February 17, 2012, 11:59pm.**

The 2012 Intensive Art Handler Training Program is an eight-week, certificate program designed as a forum which stresses the practical application of generally accepted principles of art handling. In addition, there are externship and internship or opportunities available to graduates upon completion of training. The program offers participants an opportunity to learn new skills or enhance existing skill sets, and to equip museum and gallery directors with the technical skills to design and develop innovative operational protocols for risk management, logistics and loss prevention.

Art Handlers are responsible for the maintenance and movement of fine artworks and artifacts. Responsibilities include safety, care, shipping and receiving, packing and unpacking, intake and preparation for display, exhibition installation and de-installation of art and artifacts, and certification upon completion. A yearly salary for a full-time, experienced art handler ranges from \$25,000 to \$70,000 or \$15.00 to \$40.00 per hour for seasonal or provisional free-lancers.

The next AHTP training cycle is tentatively scheduled to begin on Friday, March 9 and continues through Saturday, April 28, 2012. Those selected for this training cycle are required to complete 120 hours of training consisting of two full-day classroom sessions per week (Fridays and Saturdays, from 9:00am to 5:00pm) for eight consecutive weeks.

Criteria for program participants include: assessing basic, verbal, mathematical and measuring skills; establishing minimum requirements for physical strength and agility; examining familiarity with hand tools (hammers, saws, screwdrivers, etc.) and elementary construction materials; demonstratively, a level of safety and care in a team environment.

Workshops are structured as one- or two-day sessions that cover topics such as re-framing, stretching and rolling of canvases, installation, mounting and hanging of artworks. Art handler Training certificate Program serves as an introduction to conservator practices (sculpture, woodwork, glass / ceramics, tapestry and canvas, paperwork mounting and matting, tools and hardware of the trade.

Program participants will receive formal training in art handling best practices, under the supervision of lead trainer Gary Nichols, assistant trainer Roxalana Jordon, and specialized field consultants. The professional curriculum will include certification standards in art handling, as well as life skills training and career counseling.

The program has evolved over its 14 years to include art history, on-line video instruction, business and marketing development. Since its 1998 inception the program has trained over 135 individuals who have been employed by renown institutions as the Smithsonian, Sothebys, and MoMA, the Brooklyn Museum and a whole host of private and public galleries. Many of the AHTP graduates are sought after and employed by some of the most prestigious art institutions in the country as registrars, exhibit installers, site prep supervisors, fine arts specialists. In addition, recent graduates have had opportunities to meet with and even work on art projects with the established artist like Frank Stella and Kehinde Wiley. Internship opportunities with our partners afford participants an option to develop expertise in specialized areas such as framing, crating, conservation, paperworks, artworks, staging, layout and design. In addition, some of our more successful graduates have assumed positions as fine art administrators or art handling educators.

Additional information and an online application can be found on the Bronx Council on the Arts website at www.bronxarts.org, or you can e-mail finearts@bronxarts.org or call 718-931-9500 x35.

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