



## FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL

### Curator *Job Description*

#### **About Finlandia Foundation National (FFN):**

As the premier Finnish-American cultural organization, Finlandia Foundation National champions a vibrant Finnish-American heritage and legacy that builds bridges between modern Finland and the United States, enabling people of all backgrounds to share in the traditions, values, and spirit of Finland and Finnish America.

Finnish heritage and Finnish-American traditions are a valuable part of our culture. We contribute to, maintain, and promote this community by offering a wide range of programming to members, chapters, partners, and friends of Finland in America centered around our six core values: **Heritage & History | Arts, Culture & Society | Education & Scholarship | Innovation & Forward Thinking | Happiness & Wellbeing | Partnership & Collaboration**. By building a solid network of nearly 60 chapters throughout the United States and increasing the number and amount of grants and scholarships for individuals, members, and friends in our network as well as programs, FFN inspires and strengthens the Finnish-American community in the United States, striving to serve as the “go to” Finnish-American heritage and cultural organization in the United States.

Founded in 1953 in Pasadena, California, Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) is the premier organization for Finnish-Americans in the United States. FFN is a leading private supporter of Finnish and Finnish-American culture, having awarded more than \$2 million in grants, scholarships, and programs since 2003. Since 2023, FFN operates the Finnish American Heritage Center (FAHC), a dynamic cultural campus that includes the Historical Archive, Finlandia Art Gallery, North Wind Books, the Finnish American Folk School, and the Finnish American Reporter, located in Hancock, Michigan.

Learn more about us at [finlandiafoundation.org](https://finlandiafoundation.org)

## **Location:**

This position is a full-time, in-person position which will be located in the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock, MI.

## **Position Overview:**

This position sits at the intersection of historical museum and art gallery curation.

Finlandia Foundation National seeks a full-time, on-site **Curator** to lead the development of exhibitions and interpretive experiences across the Finnish American Heritage Center. We are seeking a curatorial professional with the ability to do hands-on curatorial work as well as the ability to transform the overall visitor experience in our buildings. The Curator will be responsible for shaping a cohesive, engaging, and meaningful visitor experience across multiple spaces. The Curator will build on the strong legacy of the Finlandia Art Gallery while expanding into exhibitions and programming that incorporate **art, culture, history, and Finnish-American heritage**.

The Curator will play a central role in defining how visitors experience the FAHC—creating exhibitions and environments that are visually compelling, intellectually engaging, and rooted in the mission of FFN.

## **Key Responsibilities**

### **Curatorial Vision & Exhibition Development**

- Develop and implement a cohesive curatorial vision across the FAHC, integrating contemporary visual art, history, and cultural heritage
- Plan, curate, and execute a rotating schedule of exhibitions across all spaces within the FAHC
- Incorporate materials from the FAHC's historical collections and archives into exhibitions and interpretive displays
- Collaborate with colleagues, artists, historians, scholars, and community partners to develop exhibitions

### **Visitor Experience & Interpretation**

- Design exhibitions and spaces that create a compelling and immersive visitor journey throughout the FAHC that are aligned with the programming, mission, and vision of FFN
- Develop accessible and engaging interpretive materials (labels, text panels, multimedia content)
- Plan and offer guided tours and serve as a public-facing ambassador for the FAHC
- Collaborate with North Wind Books and other FAHC entities to create a cohesive, cross-space experience

- Manage and develop a community volunteer program of the Finnish American Heritage Center

### **Operations & Exhibition Execution**

- Oversee and coordinate all aspects of exhibition production, including:
  - Installation and deinstallation
  - Coordination with artists and lenders
  - Shipping, handling, and preparation of works
- Lead and execute installation of exhibitions in our exhibit spaces, deinstallation, and exhibit changes
- Maintain inventory of archival material including artworks and other material as well as supplies
- Maintain and manage the approved budget and track expenses
- Maintain an inviting and safe workspace
- Have a general familiarity with some museum and art gallery industry best practices, for example American Association of Museums (AAM), FAHC policies, and other relevant guidelines and directives

### **Communications & Promotion**

- Develop and execute promotional strategies for exhibitions, including:
  - Press releases
  - Local and regional media contact and interviews
  - Website content
  - Social media
  - Print materials
- Contribute content to FFN communications channels
- Increase visibility and attendance through strategic outreach

### **Events & Public Engagement**

- Plan and host exhibition openings, receptions, and related events
- Plan for artist hosting or resident artists
- Collaborate on broader FAHC programming and special events
- Represent FFN as needed in local and regional history, heritage, arts, or cultural events as determined necessary

### **Financial Management & Fundraising**

- Manage and track the curatorial and exhibition budget
- Identify and pursue grant and funding opportunities
- Contribute to fundraising strategies for exhibitions and FAHC initiatives

### **Collaboration & Institutional Engagement**

- Serve as an active member of the FAHC team, contributing to shared goals and

initiatives

- Collaborate with FFN staff to ensure exhibits and experiences align with FFN branding and strategic objectives
- Work closely with FFN leadership to align curatorial work with national priorities
- Build and maintain relationships with relevant local, regional, national, and international partners

### Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree preferred; advanced degree preferred (art, art history and/or museum studies, or related field)
- 3–5+ years of relevant experience in curatorial work, exhibitions, or cultural programming
- Demonstrated ability to conceptualize and execute thematic exhibitions
- Strong communication and writing skills
- Experience with project management, budgeting, and event planning
- Ability to work both strategically and hands-on in a small team environment
- Familiarity with social media and basic digital tools
- Experience with installation work and/or use of tools is required
- Experience with coordinating volunteers and managing teams
- Interest in or knowledge of Finnish and Finnish-American culture and history
- Experience working with archives or historical materials

### Work Environment & Expectations

- Full-time, in-person, on-site position in Hancock, Michigan
- Evening, weekend, and event-based work required
- Collaborative, team-oriented environment within the FAHC and a willingness to both give and receive direction and feedback
- Reports to the Director of the Finnish American Heritage Center, with alignment to FFN leadership

**Don't meet every single qualification?** Studies show that candidates may hesitate to apply unless they meet every requirement. If you're excited about this role but your experience doesn't align perfectly, we still encourage you to apply. You may be just the right person for this opportunity!

### Why This Role Matters

This is a unique opportunity to shape the future of one of the most important centers of Finnish-American culture in the United States. The Curator will play a defining role in transforming the FAHC into a **dynamic, immersive, and nationally relevant cultural destination**.

### Compensation and Benefits:

This position offers a competitive salary range of \$48,000 – \$52,000, commensurate with experience.

**How to Apply:**

[Please apply here.](#)

**Only applicants selected for interviews will be contacted.**

**Applications will be accepted until May 22, 2026 or until the position is filled.**

**Equal Opportunity:**

FFN is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without unlawful discrimination based on race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, prior record of arrest or conviction, citizenship status, or current employment status.

**Confidentiality:**

FFN will not contact an applicant's current employer unless they are listed as a reference by the applicant.