DIRECTOR, ART COLLECTION
VULCAN, INC.
Seattle, Washington

Position Summary
Vulcan, Inc. seeks an experienced and knowledgeable arts administrator to serve as the next Director of the Art Collection, overseeing all aspects and activities of the Paul Allen Family Collection of art and artifacts, the Vulcan corporate collection, and advisory support for the affiliate collections. The Director provides strategic leadership and strong management in support of the professional staff responsible for collection research and development, curatorial, and collections management including: shipping, storage, preservation, conservation, cataloguing, and installation. Oversees the maintenance of art and artifact collection management systems, and recommends and implements improvements, evaluating systems and procedures for efficiency. Consults on acquisition and deaccession activities; develops and delivers status reports and recommendations to collection Owners. Supports artwork installation and rotation planning, outgoing loans, and touring exhibition initiatives.

The Company
Vulcan, Inc. is a nimble private company based in Seattle, Washington working to solve some of the biggest global issues. The projects and investments pursued are inspired by the ideas of founder Paul G. Allen and tethered to a simple principle: using data to inform efforts and seek out opportunities that can make a positive impact—and share what is learned. Vulcan supports innovative approaches that can save endangered species, address climate change, improve ocean health, explore new frontiers, research how the human brain works, and build sustainable communities. Vulcan strives to answer big questions asked by its founder, and by the world.

Vulcan’s commitment to art and culture includes exploring different models for elevating and enriching the arts. Recent examples include the Seattle Art Fair, the traveling exhibition Seeing Nature: Landscape Masterworks from the Paul G. Allen Family Collection, a public art projection to light St. Peter's Basilica to inspire action around the
climate crisis, and public art installations throughout the city of Seattle.

Within Vulcan, the Art Group oversees Paul G. Allen’s extensive collection of art and artifacts. This collection is represented by many works of the world’s renowned artists, and is displayed at diverse locations globally. Vulcan oversees the operations for the Flying Heritage Collection – a collection of rare WWII aircraft and artifacts restored to working condition – and the Living Computer Museum, a collection of restored vintage computer equipment. Vulcan founded and operates the EMP Museum, a leading edge, nonprofit museum in Seattle dedicated to the ideas and risk-taking that fuel contemporary culture, and The Hospital Club, a unique private members club in London addressing the needs of the creative industries.

**The Seattle Community**

Seattle is a vibrant city of more than 686,000 people (and over 3,700,000 in the greater metropolitan region) situated on the shores of Lake Washington, Lake Union, and Puget Sound, and flanked by two mountain ranges (Olympics and Cascades). Surrounded by mountains and water, the greater Seattle area features picture-perfect views, a mild climate, and abundant recreational opportunities year-round.

Seattle is a center for commerce, culture, science, and innovation. It is home to a number of leading multi-national corporations and the region’s economy includes leading-edge clusters such as aerospace, information technology, life sciences, biotechnology, clean technology/environmental industries, logistics, and international trade. The Seattle area is the health care center of the Pacific Northwest, with renowned hospitals and research facilities. The city is the center of a thriving coffee industry, a dynamic recreation equipment sector, the nation’s largest marine and fisheries sector, and a vibrant music industry. According to a study by Americans for the Arts, the Seattle-Tacoma area has more arts-related businesses and organizations per capita than any other U.S. metropolitan area. Seattle has numerous colleges and universities, the largest of which is the University of Washington, a public university with approximately 45,000 students.

**Essential Duties and Responsibilities**

The Director of the Art Collection’s responsibilities include:

- Provides strategic leadership to the Art Group of 14 professionals, relying on individual expertise in each of the respective disciplines
such as curatorial, conservation, etc., to inform broader decision-making and goal setting

- Through open communication and efficient decision-making, assists team members with establishing short- and long-term priorities
- Prepares and monitors an annual plan for the Art Group, including reporting out against quarterly objectives and milestones
- Assesses current team processes and determines if Owners are best served by the processes in place
- Manages performance of Art Group staff, including understanding roles and talent on the team, clarifying roles where needed, conducting performance appraisals, and offering ongoing assessment and feedback
- Oversees acquisitions and deaccession activities including provenance research, market valuation, art historical significance, and development of recommendations for purchases; maintains relationships with leadership of auction houses and commercial galleries
- Provides overall responsibility and guidance for the development and implementation of plans for the ongoing fiscal control and improvements related to the art and artifact collections, including current and long-term costs for interpretation, storage, care, exhibition, security, and placement; oversees the preparation and monitoring of art and artifact collections budgets
- Provides oversight and guidance to the Project Manager for projects affecting the art and artifact collections
- Oversees the Chief Registrar to ensure registration activities for the development of and access to information and research on objects in the collection are accurate
- Ensures the security and protection of objects in the collection; assesses and develops recommendations on loan requests using security and valuation criteria
- Approves and ensures art and artifact collections procedures and guidelines, as appropriate, in consultation with Chief and Senior Registrars, Vulcan Finance, Legal, Tax, and Technology Departments
- Oversees Sr. Art Market Acquisitions Analyst, in the development and analysis of the value, marketability, gains, losses, and risks associated with the art and artifact collections
• Oversees and represents collections-related interests and projects to the appropriate Personal Services teams

• Provides leadership in the growth of the annual Seattle Art Fair; manages relationships with sponsorship partners and oversees VIP and curatorial programs

• Fulfills management responsibilities including, but not limited to interviewing, hiring, and training employees; coaching; mentoring; planning, assigning, and directing work; appraising and managing performance; addressing complaints and resolving problems

• Travel estimated to be 25%

**Ideal Candidate Characteristics**

The ideal candidate will possess a combination of the following skills, knowledge, and/or abilities:

• Deep and broad knowledge of art or cultural artifact history

• Advanced knowledge of and experience with care, storage, display, and retrieval of art and artifact collections

• A respectful, cooperative leader who is skilled at navigating a flat organization

• Ability to foster the collaborative working environment needed for successful team oriented projects

• Experience cultivating business relationships with galleries, auction houses, art-related entities, and cultural partners (e.g. Seattle Art Museum, Henry Art Gallery, Tacoma Art Museum)

• Strong managerial skills as evidenced by extensive experience in personnel, budget, and facilities management

• Proven ability to anticipate, identify, and respond to changing business priorities and needs while building and maintaining a strong sense of community among employees

• Demonstrated success managing and overseeing complex multi-million dollar projects

• Excellent written and verbal communication skills with the ability to communicate effectively at all levels of the organization

• Carries out responsibilities in accordance with the organization’s policies and applicable laws
Experience/Education  Master’s degree (M.A., M.S., M.B.A., M.F.A.) in art or cultural history, museum management, etc., and 12 years’ plus relevant experience; OR equivalent years’ work experience; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Compensation  Compensation is competitive and will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. An attractive benefits package will be provided.

Application Procedure  Individuals interested in applying for this position should email a resume and letter of interest to:

Museum Management Consultants, Inc.
mmc@museum-management.com

Position open until filled

Vulcan, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer