



Internship | Gallery Ambassador

Applications accepted on a rolling basis, per exhibition cycle

Internship Description

Our Gallery Ambassadors are the first people guests interact with when visiting MCASB. The majority of their responsibilities take place in the galleries of the Museum working as our front-of-house staff, welcoming visitors and acting as a conduit between the public and the artwork we showcase in our exhibitions. Along with assisting in day-to-day museum operations, Gallery Ambassadors must have a working knowledge of the art and the artists currently on display. They must be familiar with the history, programs, staff, and mission of MCASB, which is covered in a series of mandatory training sessions prior to the opening of each exhibition. Gallery Ambassadors demonstrate the accessibility of contemporary art by facilitating conversation with visitors and encouraging participation. They convey to the public that we are a community organization committed to advancing creativity and inspiring critical thinking through meaningful engagement with the art of our time.

The Gallery Ambassador position is an educational internship for students and entry-level professionals to gain experience working within a non-profit museum setting. During their time at MCASB, Gallery Ambassadors have the opportunity to earn class credit, gain free entry into museums, meet with leading contemporary artists and art professionals, and begin building their creative network. Gallery Ambassadors have a chance to establish lasting relationships with MCASB staff, who are committed to supporting our interns both professionally and personally.

Requirements & Compensation

Successful Gallery Ambassadors are self-motivated, creative, and open-minded. While prior museum or gallery experience is not necessary, appreciation for and interest in contemporary art is essential. Individuals in this position should be able to maintain a professional demeanor in a variety of situations and possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

Gallery Ambassadors work a total of six hours per week during MCASB hours of operation, which can be split into multiple days or worked as one full shift. In addition, they must volunteer at one program or event per month outside of their scheduled shifts. Gallery Ambassadors attend three mandatory training sessions before an exhibition opens, as well as monthly intern meetings, which provide continued education in the museum field and take place on the second Friday of every month.

This internship involves a two-tiered approach to the educational benefits and compensation available over two exhibition cycles. A minimum commitment of one exhibition cycle (3-4 months) is required.¹ Select interns are invited back, on a basis of merit, to complete a second exhibition cycle while receiving hourly pay.

¹ After successfully completing one exhibition cycle according to the requirements above, Gallery Ambassadors are awarded a \$500 stipend.

How to Apply

We hire on a rolling basis— if you are interested in joining our team, please send a cover letter and resume to engagement@mcasantabarbara.org with “Gallery Ambassador” in the subject line.

Please address the following topics in your cover letter:

- Why are you interested in being a Gallery Ambassador for MCASB, and why MCASB in particular?
- What do you hope to get out of this internship?
- How have your prior experiences prepared you for working as a Gallery Ambassador? *This can include customer service positions and/or relevant coursework.*
- Please include your availability for the exhibition cycle in reference to MCASB hours of operation.