

**Position Title:** Dialogue Catalyst  
**Hours:** 32 hours per week. Nights and weekends as needed.  
**Rate:** \$17-\$19/hour depending upon experience, with benefits.  
**Reports to:** Director of Community Engagement  
**Start Date:** As soon as possible  
**End Date:** January 31st 2018  
**Deadline to apply:** Ready to review, interview and hire immediately

**What's great about this job:**

You'll be part of a new, innovative exhibition model that connects art to social action. You'll lead the activation, documentation and evaluation of the issue-driven exhibition, [Lost Childhoods](#). Based on your work, the MAH intends to implement this model in future exhibitions here. We also want to share the toolkit you create with other cultural and community organizations around the world.

**What you'll be doing:**

- **Assist in [C3 Meetings](#)**, preparing material, assisting in logistics and facilitation.
- **Work with [C3 partners](#)** (elected officials, transition-age foster youth, homeless youth, social workers, educators, CASA advocates, County health officials, and social service providers) during exhibition development to identify the most effective and manageable ways for partners to use the exhibition to advance their own goals.
- **Support C3 partners** when the exhibition is open (July-Dec) in creating events, materials, programs, and projects that extend the exhibition beyond the museum.
- **Lead events** connected to Lost Childhoods and C3 partner's goals at the museum.
- **Connect MAH staff** with C3 members interested in participating in existing MAH programs.
- **Assist in [MuseumCamp](#)**, an international 3-day workshop August 9th-11th, inviting artists, museum professionals and activists to explore the issue-driven exhibition model and identify ways to improve it.
- **Develop, recruit and manage a gallery host program** with transition age foster youth from the Smith Renaissance Society to support visitor engagement in the exhibition.
- **Document** the various ways the exhibition is used as a platform by partners.
- **Evaluate** the effectiveness of the exhibition, both for partners and visitors.
- **Research and identify ways to share** the issue-driven exhibition model with other cultural and community organizations around the world.
- **Produce a final report** with information from MAH staff that includes an issue-driven exhibition model toolkit, evaluation and dissemination plan.
- **Participate on the Engagement Team.** Support the goals and initiative of the department. Serve as a helpful partner to colleagues on the team and participate in all-staff events, including the GLOW festival.

- **Collaborate with other staff.** Maintain strong collaborative relationships and clear communication with all staff.

**You're a great fit for this job if:**

- You're a clear, confident, thoughtful, prompt and open communicator. You're a natural at creating dialogue, a safe space and making people feel comfortable.
- You have experience leading events, especially in partnership with organizations that do not often put on public events.
- You are a great writer, documentor, creative thinker, and synthesizer.
- You have experience working with/in cultural exhibitions, evaluation, and/or program design.
- You are a collaborator, team player and are a space-maker working to empower others. You know how to help collaborators feel like true partners.
- You experiment with purpose. You proactively seek and give feedback openly. You're flexible and adapt quickly.
- You put the needs of our community and partners first.
- You work quickly, solve problems proactively and produce exceptional quality work.
- You're knowledgeable in microsoft word, excel and google drive.
- Experience in Adobe (to design the toolkit) is a plus.
- Bilingual in Spanish is a plus.

**How to Apply:**

To be considered for an interview, please email [stacey@santacruzmah.org](mailto:stacey@santacruzmah.org) a single PDF that includes the following materials:

- Cover Letter
- Resume/CV
- 1 page writing sample
- Answer the following questions (2 page maximum):
  - You're meeting a C3 collaborator for the first time to discuss an upcoming event they'd like to create at the MAH. What questions do you come prepared to ask them? What's your course of action after the meeting?
  - You're meeting a C3 collaborator who has hundreds of ideas for how to activate the exhibition in their own space. They only have time to invest into one of these ideas. How do you help them narrow it down?
  - What kinds of events and exhibition extensions do you imagine being most fruitful for the *Lost Childhoods* project?

## Background - Why we're looking for a Dialogue Catalyst

For five years, the [Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History \(MAH\)](#) has been using art and history as catalysts for community action around local issues that matter. Now, we are piloting a new structure, issue-driven exhibitions, to push this work further.

An issue-driven exhibition is a:

- PLATFORM for learning and dialogue on a social issue of local significance
- SHOWCASE for original commissioned artwork and artifacts exploring the issue
- CALL TO ACTION inviting partners & visitors to move our community forward
- CO-DESIGNED with local partners who are experts in the issue, coming from diverse perspectives (including affected people, service providers, community leaders)
- CO-HOSTED with local partners, who will help create exhibition-related events, curriculum, dialogue sessions, and community-wide activities

Our first issue-driven exhibition, [Lost Childhoods](#), will focus on how our community can come together to make a difference in the lives of youth transitioning out of the foster care system and into adulthood. This exhibition will be open July-December 2017 at the MAH, involving ~50 partners, 3 newly-commissioned art installations, and over 30,000 regional visitors.

*Lost Childhoods* is a creative collaboration through [C3](#) which involves MAH staff, artists, foster youth, social workers, and advocates to empower youth to share their often-hidden experiences transitioning out of the foster care system, using art, artifacts and stories to inspire community awareness, social action, and individual engagement.

Because *Lost Childhoods* is our pilot issue-driven exhibition, we are both building the model and the exhibition at the same time. The MAH team on this project is Nina Simon (Executive Director), Stacey Garcia (Director of Community Engagement), Nora Grant (Exhibitions Catalyst), Justin Collins (Design Catalyst), and Helen Aldana (Community Programs Catalyst). We are seeking one more person to add to this team in a contract role as a Dialogue Catalyst to ensure strong liaisons with our partners so they can most effectively engage community members with the exhibition once it is open.

To develop this issue-driven exhibition, the MAH team is:

- Recruiting a community leadership team (C3) of 40 advisors to co-develop the exhibition. This team includes elected officials, transition-age foster youth, homeless youth, social workers, educators, CASA advocates, County health officials, and social service providers. It also includes 10 local artists with an interest in the topic.
- Hosting a series of 6 workshops with C3 to develop exhibition goals, content, calls to action, and locally-specific issues to explore.
- Commissioning three C3 artists/artist teams to create original installations for the exhibition, supplementing stories, art, and artifacts provided by former foster youth.

- Designing a 3,000 square foot exhibition, featuring art, artifacts, installations, participatory components, and a program space for C3 partners to lead activities. All exhibition text will be bilingual English/Spanish.
- Designing school tour curriculum (3,000+ youth anticipated during the exhibition run).
- Helping C3 partners identify meaningful ways to extend the exhibition and call to action with their own constituencies, influencers, donors, and clients.
- Working with C3 partners to create community events, at the MAH and throughout the region, related to the topics in the exhibition.
- Hosting an international 3-day workshop in summer 2017 to invite artists, museum professionals, and activists to explore the model and identify ways to improve it (MuseumCamp).

For Lost Childhoods to be an effective call to action, it can't just live in a gallery in the museum. It has to get out of that gallery and into the community.

Our C3 partners are busy people. They are service providers focused on the crisis walking in the door. They are homeless youth struggling to find their next meal. While all our partners are tremendously excited about the potential to use Lost Childhoods to ignite positive change, many will need help to turn that excitement into community action.

For that reason, we are seeking a contract Dialogue Catalyst to serve as a continuous liaison for partners throughout this project. We need you to help activate the exhibition, energize our partners, and take this project beyond the museum walls.