

ZHF

ZAHA HADID FOUNDATION

Position: Conservator

Location: London, UK

Introduction

The Zaha Hadid Foundation (ZHF) is seeking to appoint a Conservator to join its new and growing team. Reporting to the Head of Collections, the Conservator will primarily work on the development, implementation and maintenance of preventive conservation measures to ensure the highest levels of collections care. They will manage interventive conservation requirements and will support the audit of the collections and the developing loans and exhibitions programme.

ZHF is a new organisation. We aim to be a major national and international centre for the study of architecture and design, and all the visual arts insofar as they intersect with the urban environment. Our mission is to preserve and promote the artistic and creative legacy of Zaha Hadid, to advance research and education in areas pertaining to her legacy, and in relation to modern architecture, design and related disciplines. We will do this through the creation of appropriate facilities for the display and study of its collections, and through curatorial and educational programmes in our own facilities and those of other institutions.

The Conservator will develop and manage preventive conservation measures to ensure that the collection is protected, and will be responsible for carrying out or advising on interventive conservation treatment where required. They will work with the Head of Collections to establish permanent storage facilities and to ensure that the collections are secure and appropriately cared for. They are expected to have a recognised professional degree qualification in conservation, a good working knowledge of preventive conservation, and practical experience of working with museum collections, and collections databases.

The Foundation

The Zaha Hadid Foundation will present the art and ideas of Zaha Hadid to local and global audiences. It will promote new ideas in architecture and design, and the interaction of the arts in contemporary society, engaging with diverse audiences and supporting new scholarship in areas which pertain to her work and legacy.

Whilst firmly rooted in architecture and the life and work of Zaha Hadid, the Foundation will engage in a broad range of cultural activities. It will create exhibitions, from large-scale events for major international venues, to smaller and specialist displays. The Foundation will have its own exhibition spaces in which changing displays from the collection will provide London with ongoing access to Zaha Hadid's work. The Foundation will also create exhibitions of all types that position Zaha in context, independently and through collaboration with other institutions.

The Foundation will generate a wide range of activity, including conferences, colloquia, public lectures, film, online programmes, and publications. It will create a programme of fellowships and bursaries to advance new knowledge and innovative practice in relation to Zaha's creative legacy. This might include practice in architecture, design, planning, museology, historical and theoretical studies.

ZHF is a new organisation at an early stage in its development. The role of the team in the first three years will be to create a fully functioning and internationally leading organisation of its type. The Conservator will be committed to building an organisation 'from the ground up', will work well as a part of team, and with people with various specialisms. They will have an innovative and practical approach to problem solving. Crucially, the Conservator will have experience of working with museum collections, and will be committed to caring for physical objects to a high professional standard. They will be excited at the prospect of creating a new organisation with a progressive attitude to material culture.

The Collection

The Foundation's collection comprises of c.10,000 works across a range of media, including architectural models, furniture, interior design, paintings, drawings, architectural plans and blue-prints, fashion design, and jewellery. Additionally, there is a considerable archive, consisting of works on paper and various types of ephemera. There is a collection of books which will form the basis of a research library. At present the collection is in secure professional storage.

The Role

As a new institution, ZHF is effectively a 'start-up'. It is important therefore that the postholder is flexible with regard to the tasks at hand, and able to work within a team environment that is sometimes pressured. Much of the role will be project-driven: supporting the coordination and delivery of projects will be a significant aspect of the postholder's abilities.

Reporting to and working with the Head of Collections, the Conservator will be centrally engaged in the creation of conservation policies and processes, and in obtaining museum accreditation. Significant and immediate priorities will include developing and maintaining Integrated Pest Management procedures, monitoring and advising on environmental controls, condition checking objects as part of the collections audit, and the development of systems and processes pertaining to the care and display of the collections. The postholder will ensure that all ZHF staff are appropriately aware of preventive conservation procedures.

They will work closely with the Registrar (Collections) to develop and maintain the collections database, and with the Registrar (Exhibitions) and the Exhibitions Officer to support and facilitate the programme of loans and exhibitions. The Conservator will be highly methodical and practical, and fully able to manage the preventive and interventive conservation work of the organisation, including advising on the establishment of object storage facilities and the suitability of borrowing partners. They will have knowledge and experience of best practice in preventive conservation, and practical experience of interventive conservation, ideally having worked with works on paper, paintings, and/ or textile and fashion collections.

Duties

Working with the Head of Collections, the postholder will:

- Develop and maintain preventive conservation measures to ensure that the collection is cared for and protected to the highest international museum standards
- Carry out, manage and/ or advise on interventive conservation treatment where required
- Assist in the establishment and maintenance of the Foundation's storage facilities
- Work with and support the Registrar (Collections) on the collections audit and the development and maintenance of the collections database
- Work with and support the Registrar (Exhibitions) and the Exhibitions Officer in the delivery of the loans and exhibitions programmes
- Train and/ or make ZHF staff aware of preventive conservation measures as required
- Support the development of policies and procedures to enable the Foundation to gain full museum accreditation
- With the Head of Collections, organise and manage contractors brought into ZHF for specific conservation projects

They will have a recognised professional conservation qualification to degree level, and experience of working with museum collections. The Conservator will have knowledge and experience of preventive conservation, and practical experience of interventive conservation, ideally having worked with works on paper, paintings, and/ or textile and fashion collections.

Person Specification

- Recognised professional conservation qualification to degree level
- Knowledge of up-to-date principles and practice in preventive conservation
- Practical experience of interventive conservation in a museum context
- Experience of working with collections databases
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to work collaboratively
- Ability to manage a diverse workload
- Commitment to equality and diversity in the context of the role

Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity and Inclusion is at the heart of the Zaha Hadid Foundation. As we grow we will ensure that our principles and actions reflect this, and that we create a respectful, equitable and inclusive culture that supports all our employees regardless of age, disability and neurodiversity, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation, and socioeconomic background.

ZHF works to ensure that our recruitment processes are inclusive and accessible. We are committed to making adjustments wherever possible for disabled applicants. We are happy to discuss flexible working options for all our roles.

Application procedure

The deadline for applications is **17.00, 10th April 2022**.

All applications should be addressed to Human Resources, Zaha Hadid Foundation and sent either digitally or by post.

Digital applications emailed to: mail@zhfoundation.com. Please put the title of the post(s) you are applying for in the subject-line of the email. Applications can only be accepted in PDF or Word format.

Hard copy applications to be received by the closing date should be mailed to: Human Resources, Zaha Hadid Foundation, 10 Bowling Green Lane, London, EC1R 0BQ. Only paper copies are acceptable, please do not include USB or other digital storage devices.

The following are requirements for the application process:

- a current curriculum vitae
- a supporting statement of no more than 2 pages. This should outline why you believe you are suitable for the post, and why you find the Zaha Hadid Foundation particularly interesting. You should address the criteria outlined in the person specification in your statement.
- If you are interested in more than one of the posts currently on offer, indicate this in your statement.
- The names and contact details of 2 referees. Please indicate whether the referees can be contacted immediately, or whether you would prefer us to wait until an offer is being made.

Salary

The salary will be in the range £29,000- £35,000.

Please visit www.zhfoundation.com for further information

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