The Academy Museum seeks an internationally respected, curatorial innovator to highlight the art and science of motion pictures.

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures celebrates the art and science of movies—past, present, and future. Its exhibitions and programs will convey the magic of cinema, offer a glimpse behind the screen, and illuminate the creative and collaborative process of filmmaking. The Museum will seek to inspire, entertain, and educate all visitors about the rich history of motion pictures and their essential role in culture. Movies often enable us to cross ethnic, geographic, and socioeconomic lines to see the world from different perspectives. The Academy Museum will explore the ways in which film has responded to and shaped our world.

Opening in 2019 and located in the historic Wilshire May Company building that is being completely transformed with a spherical addition designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano, the Academy Museum will be the world’s premier film institution. The Academy Museum joins other renowned museum and cultural institution within Museum Row of the Los Angeles Miracle Mile District. The new museum will be adjacent to the world-famous Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), across from the Petersen Automotive Museum, and near the Craft & Folk Art, and George C. Page museums, and the La Brea Tar Pits. Perfectly positioned to draw tourists and the general public, the Academy Museum will offer an experience of cinema that no other museum in the world will match.

The Academy Museum will leverage the collections and the full capability of the artists and experts of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences community and the international world of cinema. Academy Museum curators will orchestrate an ever-evolving array of exhibitions and installations that explore the history of cinema and the creative, collaborative process of filmmaking through the lens of artists who make movies. The museum features six stories of immersive exhibition galleries, an educational studio, two state-of-the-art film and performance theaters, and dynamic public and special event spaces. Please follow the links for a building features summary and the Academy Museum website.

The Chief Curator will enable visitors to explore movie-making’s artistic process, all of the artforms that come together to make a movie, and the work of individual artists in exciting, engaging ways. Curators will also honor the unique sensibilities of individual artists who have created and refreshed the form throughout its 130-year history. The Academy Museum will set its own paradigm, bringing together film, art, and culture in a unique institution.

**BASIC FUNCTION**

In close collaboration with the Director and Deputy Director for Content and Programming, the Chief Curator and the curatorial team will showcase history’s finest movie-making artists and films to the world. Reporting to the Director, the Chief Curator will:

- shape and lead an accomplished team of staff curators who will interact with leading artists, professionals and collectors of international cinema;
- develop exhibitions that engage visitors while revealing the diverse art forms that comprise modern cinema by referencing the museum’s collections of photographs,
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The Academy Museum

- posters, scripts, storyboards, illustrations, sets and props, music, sound, costumes, technologies and film archives;
- design exhibition experiences that excite and transform the perspectives of the museum visitors and the international art world by presenting ideas that challenge the viewer, incite discussion, and encourage further exploration of the movie-making arts; and
- engage artists, collectors, gallerists, academics, free-lance curators and others in enhancing the Academy Museum’s collections and in developing its exhibition program.

The Chief Curator will play a central role in the Academy Museum’s success.

The 300,000-square-foot museum will feature more than 50,000 square feet of gallery space for both a highly immersive permanent exhibition and a schedule of diverse temporary exhibitions, two film and performance theaters, a state-of-the-art education studio, and dynamic spaces for public and special events. The museum is expected to display more than 500 objects and works-on-paper at any one time in the main permanent installations, complemented by more than 50 large-scale and multi-screen projections and installations throughout the museum. The total annual budget for the museum is expected to be about $25m and the exhibition budget is anticipated to be $2m - $2.5m annually after the first two years of operation. Museum staff (excluding security and engineering) include about 150 full-and part-time professionals, and the curatorial team of six currently includes two curators, an associate curator, and three curatorial assistants, with guest curators selectively engaged as required.

The Academy’s unparalleled permanent collections contain more than 13 million photographs, 190,000 film and video assets, 80,000 screenplays, 50,000 posters, and 20,000 production and costume design drawings. The collection also includes more than 1,400 special collections of film legends such as Cary Grant, Katharine Hepburn, Alfred Hitchcock, and John Huston. These special collections contain production files, personal correspondence, clippings, contracts, manuscripts, scrapbooks, storyboards, and more. Iconic objects from movie history, like Dorothy’s ruby slippers from Wizard of Oz, Shirley Temple’s tap shoes and miniature Oscar, Mary Pickford’s 2709 Bell & Howell movie camera, the Aries 1B lunar lander model from 2001: A Space Odyssey, and a 25-foot Bruce the Shark cast from the original mold for Jaws, are also among the treasures in the Academy’s holdings. A summary of the various collections of the Academy can be found here.

This highly innovative, high-profile and entrepreneurial institution requires a Chief Curator who is thrilled with the opportunity to exhibit and reveal the very best of American and international film-making art. S/he must have both a scholarly and populist eye for exhibition and collections, and have a demonstrated track-record of shaping exhibitions that honor art, artists and the context in which art is created, while offing experiences that excite and engage an incredibly diverse range of museum visitors. This position is not for the faint of heart – the eyes of the world, including the artists who create and continually refresh the world’s most popular art form, will be on this museum and its exhibitions.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES
The new Chief Curator will play a pivotal role in shaping collections and exhibitions, and implementing the museum’s curatorial approach. This will be accomplished primarily through
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innovative exhibitions, interpretation that is innovative in the use of exhibition technologies, original research and strategic engagement of outside experts and movie-making artists.

Primary responsibilities of the Chief Curator will include:

- Work with the Director, Deputy Director of Content and Programming and members of the curatorial team to establish the direction, goals and priorities for the Academy Museum’s collections, acquisitions, exhibitions, and research, based on the institution’s core artistic values.

- Present an agreed upon program of permanent collection installations and curated temporary film-historical and contemporary exhibitions, including exhibitions organized in collaboration with or by other curators, collectors and institutions. Collaborate with the Creative Content and Programming staff and other colleagues throughout the Academy Museum and the Academy to develop public programs, events, speakers, workshops and education that align with the exhibition schedule, with an emphasis on enjoyable educational and immersive cinema art experiences.

- Develop a systematic plan to strengthen Academy Museum’s collections through strategic acquisitions of historical and contemporary works and long-term loans; be responsible for scholarly research. Assess the aesthetic and historical importance of artists and specific works, including the authenticity, provenance, condition and importance of works within an art-historical movie-making context. With the Director, Deputy Director of Content and Programming, collection management staff and curators conduct acquisition negotiations, assuring that all appropriate standards and procedures for such acquisitions are followed.

- Enhance and expand the museum’s international network and partnerships with diverse movie artists, associated museums, collectors, curators, academics and other stakeholders relevant to Academy Museum’s collection and exhibition program. The emphasis will be on identifying opportunities to exchange exhibition projects, loans and expertise; acquisition of new works; and cultivating and securing patronage for the museum for specific art initiatives in collaboration with the museum’s development staff.

- As work on the new museum building advances, provide appropriate planning, support and consultation to shape the exhibitions, utilization of galleries and other spaces; shape and install exhibitions, etc.

- Assert the Academy Museum’s ongoing leadership internationally. Serve as an advocate and representative for Academy Museum’s mission, exhibitions, publications, research, programs and collection, ensuring that the museum’s reputation for innovation and scholarship are continually advanced; sustain a local, national and international reputation and profile through presentations, participation on juries and symposia, membership in professional organizations, and other pertinent activities.

- Cultivate an internationally respected, high functioning team of curators and associated staff, and manage the department’s annual work plans and day-to-day activities. Prepare department budgets, staffing plans and reviews, professional development plans and periodic reports on exhibitions, the collections, acquisitions, etc.
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QUALIFICATIONS and PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Academy Museum and its Director have systematically prepared for an operating museum by building a strong board and leadership team, evolving the museum’s infrastructure, and hiring a range of talented staff. The Museum will experience significant growth over the next years, and the staff will evolve considerably. The Director places a high value on creative problem solving, teamwork, an entrepreneurial spirit, and flexibility among staff professionals.

The successful candidate can come from a variety of backgrounds – this position is unique and we will consider a broad range of profiles. The Chief Curator will likely have the following attributes:

- Substantial experience working in institutions with extensive collections and a demonstrated track record of curating and organizing compelling exhibitions, including nationally and internationally travelling shows. Experience with diverse contemporary art forms is important. Experience with the art and artists involved in movie-making is preferred but not required.

- An advanced degree or equivalent experience is preferred in art history, cultural studies, and/or the diverse art forms that are part of movie-making or cinema. A deep understanding of present-day technologies and their application in movie-making and various forms of media production would be advantageous.

- Be an outcome-oriented, hard worker with high energy and initiative; a “doer” with willingness to work hands-on; experience in planning, management and evaluation are essential, as is the ability to deliver promised exhibitions on time and budget.

- Be a mission-driven individual with a commitment to the Academy Museum’s core values and transformative goals, open to experimentation and thinking “outside the box”; predisposed to juxtaposing ideas and objects in new and unexpected ways, including across disciplines, incorporating different realms of creativity beyond the visual arts and identifying links between the historical and contemporary.

- Be a good listener and strategist; comfortable receiving input from many sources, and able to analyze and formulate disparate information into sound, well-organized goals, strategies and actions; a partner able to flexibly collaborate with people and organizations with diverse expertise, experience, cultures and personalities; a tactful negotiator; exceptional written and oral communication skills.

- An emotionally mature individual with strong self-awareness and a good sense of humor.
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For more information please contact:

Mark Oppenheim
(415) 762-2640 or marko@moppenheim.com

Lee Kappelman
(202) 803-6674 or leek@moppenheim.com

Patrick Salazar
(310) 230-5315 or patricks@moppenheim.com

**m/Oppenheim Associates**
425 Market Street, Suite 1020
San Francisco, CA 94105