

Koffler Gallery Volunteer Docent Program

The mandate of the Koffler Gallery is to offer a dynamic forum for the presentation of contemporary art, developing a year-round program of exhibitions, publications, public programs and educational initiatives, and fostering the production of new works by Canadian and international artists in all stages of their careers. Reflecting diverse cultural, material and aesthetic orientations, the program highlights the contemporary Jewish experience in a unique framework that invites a comparative examination of narratives among people of varied heritages within a larger discussion of identity, memory and place.

The gallery is seeking applicants for the Koffler Gallery Volunteer Docent Program. Docents are needed to provide audiences with information, ensure the safety of artwork, conduct interactive tours and lead educational activities that add to the visitor experience. They help visitors explore Koffler Gallery's exhibitions during public hours, work with students in school groups, and assist with public programming events and other Koffler Gallery offerings.

Successful docents are enthusiastic, flexible, and able to work with visitors to encourage interactive discovery. Multilingual candidates are welcome.

Before working with visitors, docents will participate in a training program to learn about various gallery education strategies, the Koffler Gallery's programming and exhibition content, and various elements of art history. The program helps docents develop reading, research, and analytical skills, and become more effective communicators and educators. Relevant education or prior experience in the arts and humanities is an asset. Training will include:

- The study of historical and cultural context in which exhibition artworks are created
- In-gallery discussion and facilitation techniques
- Practice tours and presentations designed to promote effective interactive touring skills

Docent Benefits:

The Koffler Gallery Volunteer Docents will join a community of passionate people who provide valuable services to the gallery and to the wider community by volunteering their time to make the Koffler Gallery's programming accessible and inviting to diverse audiences. As facilitators between art and visitors, docents have exciting opportunities to share ideas and experiences with interested students and adults. Benefits also include:

- Insider access to exhibition before public openings
- Opportunities to meet artists and curators and ask exhibition related questions
- Insight into contemporary Canadian artistic practices
- Access to specialized training in visual literacy and public speaking

For more information and to apply please submit your availability and resume to **Patricia Ritacca, Education and Public Engagement Manager, Koffler Gallery**, pritacca@kofflerarts.org. We ask that interested candidates commit to a minimum of 2 months (or one exhibition run).