



Exhibition Engagement Associate

Nancy M. Bruce Center for Design and Material Culture

Start Date: September 2026 End Date: February 2027

THE NANCY M. BRUCE CENTER FOR DESIGN AND MATERIAL CULTURE: The Nancy M. Bruce Center for Design and Material Culture is the primary destination for the multi-disciplinary study of material culture and design at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. The center focuses on the study of textiles, material culture, and design, and is a hub for innovative exhibitions and programs that engage local, national, and international audiences. The Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection, the Ruth Davis Design Gallery, and the Lynn Mecklenburg Textile Gallery support the work of the Nancy M. Bruce Center for Design and Material Culture.

Exhibition Engagement Associate role:

Student Exhibition Engagement Associates (EEAs) will work directly in the Ruth Davis Design Gallery during the 2026-2027 exhibition *The Science of Human Thriving: Celebrating 100 Years of the Child Development Lab*. This exhibition explores the innovative research-based work of UW–Madison teachers, faculty, scholars, and students in the science of early relational health. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are encouraged to consider how design shapes the spaces where the children play, learn, and explore. Interactive displays and replicated study scenarios invite visitors into the world of the Child Development Lab throughout its first 100 years, with a focus on the research that takes place at every level in support of the social, emotional, and educational development of UW's youngest students.

EEAs will be in the gallery during exhibition hours to facilitate visitor engagement with interactive displays and replicated study scenarios in *The Science of Human Thriving*. EEAs will welcome visitors and assist with exhibition related programs. EEAs will work closely with the Exhibition and Engagement Manager, the CDL Centennial Project Coordinator, the Programs Assistant, and the Gallery Assistants to create meaningful interactions for visitors with exhibition materials. EEAs will enrich the public's understanding and experience of the exhibition. Student workers play an important role in day-to-day operations at the center and gain hands-on, pre-professional museum experience.

Preferred candidates may have coursework in museum studies, early childhood education, or Human Development and Family Studies. Preferred candidates may have public-facing work experience, including presenting data and scientific studies or engaging members of the public. Work study eligibility is preferred, but not required. This position is open to undergraduate and graduate students.

We will hire 3 students for the EEA role. EEAs will work for the duration of the exhibition: September 30, 2026 to February 28, 2027, with several mandatory trainings earlier in September. We expect a commitment for the duration of the exhibition. This is a limited duration position with the possibility of continuing in another hourly student role at the center if mutually desired. EEAs will work **6 – 15 hours per week** during regularly scheduled shifts during the open hours of the galleries: Wednesday-Friday, 10:00am-4:00pm (Thursdays until 7:00pm) and 12:00-4:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Upon hire, assistants will provide their availability for shifts around their course schedule and will receive a shift schedule. **Rates are \$16.00-\$18.00/hour**, depending on experience.

Job duties include but are not limited to:

- Weekly shifts in the galleries, greeting visitors, answering questions, assisting with wayfinding, and being an ambassador for the exhibitions and the center



- Facilitate visitor engagement with interactive displays and replicated study scenarios
- Learn the content of the *The Science of Human Thriving: Celebrating 100 Years of the Child Development Lab* exhibition
- Report in-gallery issues to the Gallery Assistant and/or Exhibition and Engagement Manager
- Additional duties as assigned

Preferred qualifications:

- Experience in a public-facing or visitor-engaging role at an arts, cultural, or science organization
- Interest in design, material culture, early childhood education and/or museum/exhibitions
- Knowledge of the School of Human Ecology and/or the Child Development Lab
- A demonstrated history of being well-organized, reliable, flexible, creative, and collaborative
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Comfort working independently
- Ability to learn new information quickly and manage multiple tasks simultaneously

Reports to: Bo Owen, Exhibition and Engagement Manager

How to Apply: Send cover letter and resume to bo.owen@wisc.edu, cc cdmc@sohe.wisc.edu

Due: July 12