

# ANTIQUES

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### Center For Curatorial Leadership Will Train Curators To Become Museum Directors

NEW YORK CITY — A new organization, the Center for Curatorial Leadership (CCL), contends that successful new museum directors of the future should be chosen from the ranks of today's curators. Co-founded by Agnes Gund, president emerita of the Museum of Modern Art, and Elizabeth Easton, the former chair of the department of European painting at the Brooklyn Museum, the CCL will train curators to assume leadership positions in museums.

The initiative is to be funded by Gund through December 2009. Philippe de Montebello, director, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and many other museum directors from across the United States have pledged their time, enthusiasm and support.

"The Center for Curatorial Leadership is the realization of my longstanding desire to empower and nurture the curatorial profession," said Gund. "By basing this program in New York City, we can capitalize on the city's great cultural resources. The program will also provide unparalleled access to the country's diverse museum commu-

nity, including its most gifted directors, trustees and administrators. We hope to prepare the next generation of leaders for the ever-evolving museums of the Twenty-First Century."

The CCL will identify within the curatorial ranks individuals who have the potential to become leaders and will help them become curators who not only take charge of the art in their care, but who are also capable of assuming the leadership responsibilities essential to directing a museum.

The Advisory Committee includes distinguished museum

directors and trustees, including Gund; de Montebello; Timothy Potts, director, Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth; Susana Torruela-Leval, director emerita, El Museo del Barrio; and Axel Rüger, director, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam. Other curatorial leaders on the committee include the Rt Hon Lord Smith of Finsbury, former secretary of culture for the United Kingdom, now director of the Clon Leadership Program, which helps train a new generation of leaders for the UK's cultural sector, and Darren Walker, vice president, Foundation Initiatives, The Rockefeller Foundation.

Ten fellows currently working in art museums at all levels will be chosen to participate in the program by a small committee of current and former museum directors. The selection of the fellows will be announced on October 1. Curators will learn management skills and benefit from mentoring by top-level administrators in the most important museums in America. Application forms are due July 31.

The costs of participation for the fellows will be fully funded.

The first class of fellows for the Center for Curatorial Leadership will begin on January 7, with a two-week intensive program combining mini academic courses in non-profit management, finance and budget analysis, fundraising, board development, cultural properties law, communications, conflict resolution and strategic long-range and short-term initiatives. The teachers will represent both the museum world and academia. This will be followed by a one-week residency at a major museum in the spring, which will be different from each curator's home institution. The program will conclude with a final one-week of study in June 2008.

A mentorship program will cover the overall six-month time span. However, the fellows will only need to take off a total of four weeks from their current positions. For additional information, visit [www.curatorialleadership.org](http://www.curatorialleadership.org) or 212-879-5710.