



Position Specification

Director

Gallery for Media, Communications and Journalism

Northwestern University in Qatar

Position Specification

Director, Gallery for Media, Communications and Journalism Northwestern University in Qatar

The Gallery for Media, Communications and Journalism presents exhibits and programming on the past, present and future of communication media in the Arab world and in a global context. With an emphasis on news and entertainment media, this state-of-the-art facility is designed to engage students, faculty, industry and educational visitors, and the general public.

Our Client

Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q), offering programs in communications and journalism, is one of six schools from leading American universities that have established campuses in Education City, Doha, as a result of collaborative agreements between the universities and the Qatar Foundation. Each of the universities - Northwestern, Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, Georgetown, Texas A&M and Virginia Commonwealth University - brings to Qatar educational programs for which those institutions are especially renowned. In 2008, Northwestern accepted the Qatar Foundation's invitation to leverage its excellence in journalism and communication and establish NU-Q as the University's first fully independent degree program outside the U.S. It did so because of the University's commitment to having a global presence and impact and because of Qatar's deep commitment to quality higher education, a free press and communications.

In addition to its core mission of providing undergraduate education to its students, NU-Q seeks to serve as a regional center for issues related to communications and journalism. Often in collaboration with local, regional, and international organizations, NU-Q sponsors seminars and colloquia on topics related to the media to generate additional educational and professional opportunities for its highly international student body, which hails from more than 20 different countries.

Since June 2011, NU-Q has been led by Dean and CEO Everette E. Dennis, an experienced educator, institution builder and media expert who has worked with universities, think tanks, foundations and media industries, and is known for his longstanding research and thought leadership on technological convergence and its impact on media organizations and careers.

Dean Dennis notes one of the unique aspects of NU-Q is the region's strong sense of destiny – a drive to be renowned for notable achievements. A progressive Arab state that welcomes expatriates, Qatar is home to a thriving media sector. Headquartered in Doha and initially launched as an Arabic news and current affairs satellite television channel, Al Jazeera has since expanded into a network with several outlets, including the Internet and specialty television channels in multiple languages. Qatar, due to its enormous oil and natural gas reserves, tops the list of the world's richest countries by *Forbes*.

Qatar is known for its remarkable growth and development of educational, health, sports and cultural institutions, including a lively museum culture with major programs and more to come. University College London conducts a master's in museum management program in Qatar as well.



The Antoine Predock-designed NU-Q Building, scheduled for completion in 2014.

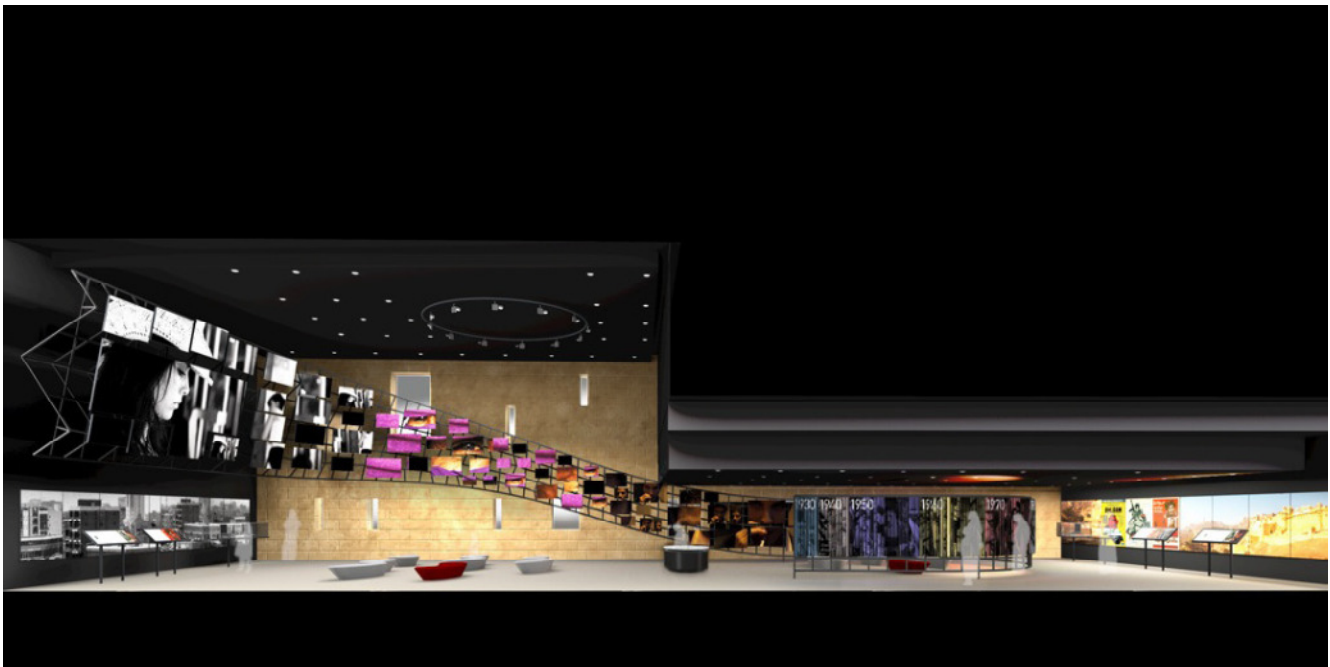
NU-Q currently shares a building with Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar. While the space offers all of the facilities and equipment used by media professionals around the world, faculty, staff and students are excited about their permanent home, designed by the highly regarded architect Antoine Predock and scheduled for completion in late 2014.

NU-Q's new facility will be approximately 350,000 square feet and has been designed to foster informal faculty-student and student-student interactions. It will include multi-media "nodes" equipped with video screens and informal presentation areas, the largest of which will have a video wall students can use to present or view media. Other features include four video production studios; two 150-person lecture halls; a black box theater; a multi-media newsroom; a research library containing electronic, print and DVD materials; a conference center for events and special programs; student lounge and activity spaces; classrooms, labs, small lecture halls, and seminar rooms; and office facilities for faculty and staff. The image above depicts a projection of the building's exterior.

The NU-Q Gallery for Media, Communications and Journalism, located in the dramatic entry hall of NU-Q's new building, will be a dynamic, interactive exposition and programming space. It will serve as a dramatic focal point introducing the purpose, process, history and anticipated future of communication, journalism and media within the region and globally.

The Gallery has been designed by the well-known New York-based design firm Ralph Appelbaum Associates. The 4,000 square foot space can be leveraged in creative ways to foster an understanding of:

- The global history of journalism and communication;
- The development of modes of communication, especially media technologies and artifacts;
- The development of media in Qatar and the Middle East from early times to the present; and
- Factors and forces that shape the future of communication, media and journalism.



*A rendering of the NU-Q Gallery, designed by
New York-based design firm Ralph Appelbaum Associates.*

Flexibility and longevity through technology are key to the design of the Gallery, allowing the university to continually devise and develop the stories and narrative threads. The Gallery will be poised to present material of many different focuses with adaptable software configurations, thereby maintaining an ever-changing scheme. The bold, dramatic space reveals a flowing river of images moving seamlessly over a fluid surface. Central to the design is a freeform and double-curved steel armature, which, like a calligraphic gesture, flows dynamically from the single height to the double height space. The Gallery is close to major reception space, theater, auditoria and classrooms.

Specific design developments of the Gallery include:

- A central armature for display of various technology platforms related to media, including a 180 degree curved screen serviced by four HD projectors, LED-backlit blocks creating a curved interactive wall and a collage of HD LED monitors;

- Interactive panels that will permit visitors to investigate various exhibits in the context of a media stream and a mixed media wall, allowing real time news and entertainment from around the world;
- Flexible Gallery space that can accommodate diverse content from Arabic cinema to Citizen Journalism;
- Modular furniture that is easy to install and change; and
- Extending the concept of the Gallery to wider communication systems such that dynamic moving text, rather than static graphics, will allow for quick content updates.

The Qatar Foundation has dedicated a significant amount of funding to support the startup of the NU-Q Gallery; dedicated funding will also be made available for exhibits. NU-Q's Gallery is part of the school and Northwestern University, and Doha has a growing and ambitious program in art, history, culture and related topics.

The Role

Reporting directly to the Dean, the Director of the Gallery will provide strategic leadership, management expertise and curatorial oversight for the NU-Q Media Gallery. S/he will be strongly supported by the Chief Operating Officer of NU-Q. The Director will ensure that the Gallery's mission is clearly understood and that its vision is fully articulated and attained. S/he will be an inspiring, energetic and collaborative leader who will fully embrace the Gallery's contribution to the educational mission of NU-Q. S/he will drive Gallery efforts to be a leader in and beyond the media space through exhibitions, special projects, programming and engagement with curricular initiatives that encourage a thoughtful analysis of history and current issues related to journalism, communications and media, inflected by the Gallery's context in the Middle East. The Director will act as an intellectual and cultural catalyst on the NU-Q campus and in Education City generally, building productive relationships with the faculty and administration, students, alumni and the broader media sector. As the Gallery's leader, the Director will hire and oversee several staff members, who will support the technology in the space and provide administrative support, and will work closely with a cross-section of NU-Q faculty and staff.

Specific responsibilities of the Director will include:

Vision

- Developing and implementing a unique and independent curatorial vision, working with key stakeholders within NU-Q and beyond.
- Leading the development of interpretive modules, translating vision into an actionable statement of work.
- Overseeing the development and implementation of innovative education initiatives and public programs, in conjunction with others at NU-Q.
- Overseeing management of exhibition development and exhibition production to ensure the highest level of quality and efficiency.

Community Liaison

- Developing and managing positive working relationships with NU-Q faculty, staff and students – as well as local museum leaders and professionals – to ensure that the Gallery contributes to academic and cultural life.
- Developing local, national, and global networks and partnerships, including those with media and education professionals, to ensure that the Gallery consistently reaches beyond the NU-Q campus.
- Developing and executing a marketing strategy and plan, in conjunction with marketing and media relations staff.

Operations & Administration

- Overseeing the day-to-day public operation to ensure quality and efficiency.
- Directing the hiring, evaluation, and development of all staff.
- Providing reports, information, and assistance to university staff and/or other departments for grants, surveys and other communications and curatorial initiatives.

Candidate Profile

The successful candidate will be an innovative educator/curator with at least 5-7 years of experience in conceptualizing exhibitions and leading a team in content development for exhibitions in which electronic media have played a strong part. The candidate will, ideally, have experience in the context of a history, science, or technology museum and will be an inventive and imaginative storyteller. Direct experience with curatorial practice and exhibition planning, education programming, operations, and public relations and/or marketing is particularly valuable.

The ideal candidate will exemplify dedication to learning, have an enormous respect for education and ideas, and have a passion for media and communications; furthermore, s/he will be eager to share these qualities with the students, faculty, administration and alumni of NU-Q.

The Director will have demonstrated success in cultivating relationships with diverse constituencies and be an articulate, dynamic, and effective communicator. S/he will be entrepreneurial, comfortable with building an institution from the ground up, and able to lead, collaborate with, and influence a diverse community.

In addition, s/he will bring connections to a network of media professionals and/or scholars who can be called upon to enhance programmatic excellence. Experience attracting, motivating, and managing a talented staff is preferred.

A bachelor's degree is required; a master's degree in museum studies, communications, journalism, or other appropriate field is preferred. Familiarity with the region is a plus but not required.

Summarizing the above, we would highlight the following competencies:

- **Creative Vision:** The Director will exude a passion for and an interest in the Gallery's unique cultural offerings. S/he will fully embrace the mission of the Gallery and NU-Q through ambitious exhibitions, programming and research that engages audiences on-campus and off.
- **Relationship Building:** The Director will be enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the opportunities and challenges of a campus Gallery. S/he will thus be a builder of bridges both on-campus on in the surrounding region. S/he must engage a wide network of contributors and supporters.
- **Entrepreneurial Spirit and Drive:** The Director will be comfortable with, and attracted to, entrepreneurial environments where processes are not yet formalized. S/he will have a genuine enjoyment of building something from the ground up, and a demonstrated ability to think outside the box and come up with creative solutions to challenging problems.
- **Team and Resource Management:** The Director must be able to translate overarching goals into clear objectives for staff. Fostering a culture of collaboration, mutuality and respect, s/he will listen as well as s/he leads. The Director will also ensure that the Gallery operates in a fiscally sound and strategic manner, continuing to identify and take advantage of operating efficiencies.

Compensation & Benefits

Highly competitive salary with a foreign station allowance of 25%, and other benefits may include a relocation package, housing, and allowances for travel and local transportation. Professorial development and research funds may also be provided. The quality of life is high in one of the fastest growing and most modern cities in the world.

Contact

Russell Reynolds Associates has been exclusively retained for this search. All inquiries and discussions will be considered strictly confidential.

Alison Ranney
Russell Reynolds Associates
155 North Wacker Drive
Suite 4100
Chicago, IL 60606-5802
Direct: +1-312-993-0740
alison.ranney@russellreynolds.com

Jett Pihakis
Russell Reynolds Associates
1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-5805
Direct: +1-202-654-7870
jett.pihakis@russellreynolds.com

1306-022NA