



CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Position: Research Assistant in Religion, African American Studies, and/or Visual Culture

Location: The Galleries at the Historic Thomas Center (Gainesville, FL)

Site Mentor and Supervisor: Anne E. Gilroy, Curator

Organization Description:

The City of Gainesville Parks and Recreation Department and the Cultural Affairs Department's mission is to be the keeper and host of the places where nature, recreation and culture meet. In support of this mission, the Cultural Affairs Division provides our community with diverse gallery exhibitions and public art installations. Programming is guided by a set of objectives which include using arts and culture to bridge and connect communities and residents.

Position Description:

The City of Gainesville seeks an intern to research and prepare interpretive content about the historical significance of the Christian tradition and the history of 20th century African American churches in the Gainesville community in support of an upcoming art exhibition.

The City has recently acquired a collection of the work of African American self-taught artist, Alyne Harris (b. 1942). The teachings of Christianity and her connections to church and community life are the two great and interconnected influences in this body of work.

The Galleries at the Historic Thomas Center prepare and present challenging and informative art exhibitions. The Harris collection will open in August, 2020. Accompanying text panels will address Christian teachings, African American community and church life in 20th century Gainesville.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assess the body of art for related biblical references
- Provide written summaries of biblical references for art viewership
- Edit the summary content for appropriate art exhibition text style and reading level
- Research and write broadly about African American community life and church life in 20th century Gainesville, including compelling facts that relate to traditions, church leaders, church membership, and traditions

Preferred Qualifications:

- Scholarly foundation in the teachings of Christianity
- Experience studying visual culture or interest in art history
- Foundation or interest in African American studies
- Research and writing skills
- Comfortable interviewing primary sources
- Organization and time-management skills
- Intellectual curiosity and the ability to reach into unknown areas of study
- Strong initiative and ability to work independently