Art & Design
FEDERAL CAREER GUIDE

Are you interested in pursuing a career in art or design? The federal government needs new talent in a variety of creative fields like photography, illustration, graphic design, audiovisual production and more. For example, as an interior designer for the Department of State, you can design and decorate embassies. As an exhibits lighting specialist for the Smithsonian Institution, you can determine the look and feel of numerous national art galleries. As a TV producer for the Broadcasting Board of Governors, you can deliver high-quality, multimedia programming to audiences worldwide.

This guide will give you a glimpse of the types of art and design jobs available in the government. For more information about searching and applying for positions in the federal government, visit gogovernment.org

Percentage of Art & Design Positions by Region

Top Art & Design Positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number of Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Affairs</td>
<td>5,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Art and Information</td>
<td>3,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Information</td>
<td>1,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing and Editing</td>
<td>1,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Writing and Editing</td>
<td>1,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audiovisual Production</td>
<td>1,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Specialist</td>
<td>862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Specialist and Technician</td>
<td>657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Curator</td>
<td>499</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: fedscope.opm.gov

Top Agencies with Employees in Art & Design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Number of Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>3,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>1,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>1,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>1,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Human Services</td>
<td>1,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>1,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smithsonian Institution</td>
<td>1,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>1,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadcasting Board of Governors</td>
<td>1,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Affairs</td>
<td>846</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: fedscope.opm.gov
SEARCH FOR ART AND DESIGN POSITIONS

With so many opportunities to use your art and design skills, it may be helpful to sort positions by job category. The most common categories are listed below. You can search USAJOBS.gov using these keywords or by using the job series code, a four-digit number corresponding to a government job category.

Job Categories

1001  General Arts and Information  
1008  Interior Design  
1015  Museum Curator  
1035  Public Affairs  
1071  Audiovisual Production  
1082  Writer/Editor

Examples of Job Positions

Job Title: Educational Technology Specialist (1001)  
Department: Department of the Army  
Agency: Army Training and Doctrine Command  
Salary Range: $47,000–$62,000/year  
Location: Lawton, Oklahoma

As an Educational Technology Specialist, you will:
• Design computer-generated 3D models and animations and 2D sketches and storyboards for use in training and gaming  
• Create original graphic designs, illustrations and storyboards  
• Advise team members on the appropriate application of 3D modeling and graphic design media methods and techniques

Job Title: Museum Curator, Sculpture (1015)  
Department: Smithsonian Institution  
Agency: American Art Museum  
Salary Range: $62,000–$97,000/year  
Location: Washington, D.C.

As a Museum Curator, you will:
• Conduct and publish research on sculpture in the permanent collection  
• Lecture in symposia, panel discussions and other public programs  
• Negotiate with donors and dealers to acquire gifts and purchases

Search Tips

As the nation’s largest employer, the federal government has thousands of positions open at any one time. Here are our top tips for finding the right job announcements for you:

1. Do Your Research.  
   Explore a variety of positions and agencies, then focus your search to a few that align best with your interests and skills.

2. Visit Agency Websites.  
   Learn more about an agency’s mission, structure and current hiring on their website.

3. Create an account on USAJOBS.gov  
   Save your job searches, build your resume and search for positions at USAJOBS.gov

Did You Know?

• There are almost 300 art and design positions available in foreign countries.
• Many art and design jobs require technical knowledge, such as familiarity with computer-aided design software like the Adobe Creative Suite or After Effects.
• The average salary for a job in art and design is $83,000 per year.

Visit us online at gogovernment.org/artanddesign

Learn more about finding a government job or internship in art and design and about:

- The Application Process  
- Federal Agencies  
- Pay and Benefits  
- Writing a Federal Resume  
- Security Clearances  
- Searching for Positions  
- USAJOBS.gov  
- Internships  
- Employee Profiles