



Strategic Plan 2025–2029

Mission Statement & Core Values



ICI supports the work of contemporary art curators to help create stronger communities through experimentation, collaboration, and international engagement. Curators are arts community leaders and organizers who champion artistic practice; build essential infrastructures and institutions; and generate public engagement with art.

We provide professional development for curators and produce traveling exhibitions and public programs that connect curators, artists, and audiences across social, political, and cultural borders. Our collaborative programs form an international framework for sharing knowledge and resources — promoting cultural exchange, access to art, and public awareness for the curator’s role.

We are committed to people first, to greater diversity in the curatorial field, program accessibility, and equitable labor practices. We invest in individuals and long-term transformation. Our core values are Inclusivity & Accessibility; Experimentation; Collaboration; Generosity; Cultural Exchange.

Who We Serve



We are of service to the tens of thousands of curators around the world who work with contemporary visual artists—whether in museums, other institutions, or independently—to produce and present art and new knowledge to their audience.

Approximately 2,500 curators in 75 countries are actively connected to ICI and its programs. Of them, 550 alumni have benefited from ICI's professional development programs early in their career and remain particularly close to ICI.

Vision



We envision a future where communities around the world are more cohesive, united, and open-hearted as a result of their engagement with the art of their times—contemporary art that reflects their lived experience and provides them with a sense of belonging. We work towards a world where curators are empowered to be civic leaders and effective agents of change to tackle the cultural challenges of our times: tribalism, alienation, polarization, generational trauma. With ICI's support, mentorship, and global network, curators will advance a multiplicity of perspectives that are often missing from art history, museums, and educational institutions. They will re-imagine communities, create inclusive and accessible structures for art, and provide artists the support they need to express complex perspectives on the human experience.

Primary Goals & Objectives

To achieve our mission and vision, over the next five years ICI will work toward the following:

Empower and Champion Individual Curators around the World



- Turn curators into leaders of their communities so that they can have a meaningful impact
- Provide curators with the support, affirmation, and validation that is required to sustain an independent, experimental, and/or innovative practice
- Uphold a commitment to the next generation of curators
- Move curators through career stages, and support mid-career curators, with a focus on alumni

Consistently Promote Curatorial Innovation, New Tools, and Methodologies



- Develop and promote new approaches in curating that effectively address global contemporary culture and uphold ICI's commitment to diversity
- Turn ICI's network of collaborators into a professional resource, starting with the Alumni Network
- Support curatorial research into overlooked art movements, lesser-known art histories, and civic-minded curatorial practice
- Apply ICI's thought leadership to curatorial education

Demonstrate How Curators Have Positively Impacted Their Communities



- Advance global perspectives, storytelling, and first-person narratives in curating that provide a greater diversity of programming and deepen popular understandings of communities and societies
- Develop a regional art discourse that empowers local communities, connecting them to themselves and to the world
- Expand ICI's geographical reach and depth of impact
- Expand ICI's reach across socioeconomic, educational, and cultural obstacles

Secure the Longevity and Sustainability of the Organization



- Make ICI the go-to organization defining “curating,” “curatorial practice,” and the role of the curator (within the scope of contemporary art, and as a form of community-building), and continue to advocate for ICI's definitions of these terms
- Establish and communicate a clear Financial Investment / Social Impact Strategy
- Identify critical strategic partnerships
- Be data driven
- Put in place a realistic and efficient capacity structure
- Uphold ICI's core values in all of our work and in the management of the organization