Careers in the Arts

“Part of the wonderful freedom that comes with being an artist or designer is creating your own unique career path” Quote from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago career pamphlet.

Art Education
schools, art education programs, museum education departments, community art centers, library-based art programs, children's museums, health care centers

• museum curator/ lecturer
• researcher
• career counselor
• community-based art director
• artist-in-residence
• program director
• teacher

Art History & Criticism
museums, galleries, universities and colleges, magazines, newspapers, publishing companies, public television stations, auction houses, arts organizations

• university professor
• lecturer
• educational coordinator
• museum director
• curator
• curatorial researcher
• documentary researcher
• conservator
• critic
• author
• writer
• grant writer

Art Therapy
hospitals, schools, rehabilitation centers, private practice

• art therapist
• counselor
• special education specialist
• arts program director
• project coordinator
• teacher
• writer

Art & Technology
special effects design firms, advertising agencies, printing firms, video & film production houses, television stations, graphic design firms, industrial design companies, publishing companies

• 3-D computer imagist
• web page designer
• computer game designer
• computer animator
• telecommunications designer
• interactive media designer
• installation artist
• neon sculptor
• kinetic sculptor
• laser holographer
• robotics artist
• music video art director
• product researcher
• special effects designer

• animatronics designer

Ceramics
clay studios, conservation centers, arts centers, schools and universities, restoration companies, ceramics manufacturers, industrial design firms, museums

• sculptor
• installation artist
• teacher
• conservator
• terra cotta and tile restorer
• dish and vessel ceramicist
• studio manager
• gallery assistant
• mold maker
• toy designer
• jewelry designer

Fashion Design
clothing manufacturers, department stores, photography studios, fashion design firms, boutiques, theaters

• designer
• costume designer
• accessory designer
• fabric and textile designer
• clothing constructor
• image consultant
• visual merchandiser
• fashion critic
• fashion buyer
• illustrator
• conservator

Fiber/ Textiles
museum textile departments, historical societies, interior design firms, architecture firms, fabric design firms, retail stores, industrial textile manufacturers, sculpture studios

• textile designer
• hand-painted textile artist
• design consultant
• fine paper maker
• production weaver
• sculptor
• instructor

Interior Architecture
interior design firms, architecture firms, exhibit design firms, furniture design firms, theaters, city planning offices, hospitals

• interior architect
• interior designer
• interior consultant
• environmental architect
• architectural renderer
• space planner
• exhibit designer
• project manager
• construction supervisor
• furniture designer
• lighting designer
• stage designer
Painting & Drawing
galleries, museums, university and colleges, private studios, corporations, city/state/federal arts agencies
- exhibiting artist
- artist-in-residence
- freelance artist
- curator
- gallery director
- teacher
- arts administrator
- muralist
- portraitist
- illustrator
- animator
- backdrop painter

Filmmaking
production companies, feature film production houses, distribution corporations, film promotion agencies, editing studios, audio-visual firms, state film agencies
- independent filmmaker
- director
- producer
- art director
- production assistant
- scriptwriter
- editor
- technician
- camera operator

Photography
museums, photography labs, photography studios, magazines, newspapers, advertising agencies, public relations offices, schools, graphic design firms, photography archives
- freelance photographer
- portraitist
- photo archivist
- commercial photographer
- public relations photographer
- documentary photographer
- photostylist
- collection manager
- darkroom manager
- curator

Printmaking
museum prints and drawings departments, silkscreen companies, galleries, print dealers, fine art presses, print shops, publishing companies, graphic design firms, textile design companies, computer service bureaus
- master printer

Visual Communication
graphic design firms, publishing companies, environmental design firms, desktop publishing firms, magazines, advertising agencies, newspapers, digital/web design firms, retail stores, manufacturers
- desktop publisher
- graphic designer
- creative director
- freelance designer
- computer graphics designer
- packaging designer
- art director
- illustrator
- multimedia designer
- environmental graphic designer
- exhibition designer
- paper engineer

Sculpture
foundries, museums, gallery manufacturers, architectural firms, construction companies, schools, theaters, film production houses
- sculptor
- installation artist
- teacher
- restorer
- sculpture conservator
- preparatory
- jewelry designer
- set designer
- toy designer

Sound
recording studios, video and film production houses, universities/colleges/schools/theaters
- installation artist
- music and video technician
- computer aided sound technician
- collection manager
- musician
- technician
- professor
- sound designer

Video
television studios, video production studios, post-production studios, music video production companies
• independent video maker
• editor
• director
• production manager
• special effects designer
• camera operator
• cable access producer

Performance
television studios, performance presentation spaces, galleries, theaters, schools, colleges and universities
• performance artist
• visiting artist
• program director
• choreographer
• technical director
• curator