

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS FOR THE ARTS

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POSITION DESCRIPTION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FIGGE ART MUSEUM DAVENPORT, IOWA

BACKGROUND:

In 1925 the city of Davenport celebrated the opening of the first municipally owned art gallery in the state of Iowa. A collection donated by Charles Ficke of 330 works became the backbone of the museum's collection. Over the year's bequests and gifts by private collectors enhanced the collection. In 1983 the museum was awarded AAM accreditation and changed its name to the Davenport Museum of Art. In the 1990's the museum made plans to relocate to downtown Davenport. The new museum served as a catalyst for the city and regions economic redevelopment and became much more accessible to the citizens of the Quad cities. In 2003 a lead gift from the V.O. Figge and Elizabeth Kahl Figge Charitable Foundation insured the success of the museum's campaign for its new building and the renaming of the museum to the Figge. British architect, David Chipperfield, was selected to become the architect and in 2005 the museum opened its doors.

The 100,000 squad foot museum offers a diverse mix of exhibition galleries, education spaces adjacent to the galleries, a family activity center, auditorium and a spacious lobby for events as well as public amenities including a café and shop.

The Figge serves as a vital cultural resource for the region and provides access to important collections of European, Spanish Vice-Regal, American, Haitian and American, contemporary art and the Grant Wood archive. Its dynamic program of changing exhibitions includes traveling exhibitions such as the recent *French Moderns* from the Brooklyn Museum and in-house exhibitions featuring works from the collection and on loan, such as the recent *Vic Muniz: Hand Remade*. Lectures and interpretive programs for each exhibition are planned in collaboration with the education staff, which also presents community-based exhibitions and events.

The museum's mission is to bring art and people together. This mission emerged from the set of values on which the Figge was founded.

- To have a public service role,
- To be welcoming to all,
- To be committed to socially inclusive practices,

- To be community centered,
- To collect and exhibit art that resonated with the community and be nimble, agile and responsive to its community.

Over the past seven years, the perception of the Figge has changed from an elitist institution to one that welcomes the whole community. Providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere for the visitor. The Figge will retire its debt in 2020, has an agreement with the city of Davenport to continue to support the museum annually into the foreseeable future, has a committed board of trustees and a community that embraces the museum.

Position Description:

The board is looking for a dynamic, visionary and innovative leader who is passionate about the arts and the mission of the museum. S/he should have the ability to leverage the museum's assets for community outreach and development and bringing art and people together. S/he should have deep knowledge of the arts and art museums and ties to regional and national arts organizations. The individual should demonstrate successful management and administrative experience and skills, and be an effective relationship builder with an open, inclusive and collaborative style.

The Executive Director serves as Chief Executive Officer of the museum, reports to and is responsible to the Board of Directors for all aspects of the operation, of the museum, including but not limited to financial management, supervision and professional development of staff, fundraising and donor relationships, education programming, collection curation and development, community relations and outreach, and implementation of Board policy. programming, collection curation and development, community relations and outreach, and implementation of Board policy.

In collaboration with the Board, the Executive Director provides leadership, vision and strategic direction for the organization. The Executive Director serves as an ex-officio member of all standing Board committees and works with the chairs of each committee and with staff to accomplish the goals and objectives of the museum.

Responsibilities include:

- Represents the Figge Art Museum as the Chief Executive Officer with its many internal and external constituencies, including with City of Davenport officials, other elected officials and community leaders.
- Oversees the financial well-being of the institution including budget, cost control, capital expenditures, financial controls, banking, profit, pricing, insurance for property and casualty, and the reporting of all financial results to the Board.
- Provides effective management, supervision and professional development for museum staff, including the recruitment and development of talent for the organization.

- Coordinates the development and execution of a strategic plan, tactics, and action plans.
- Leads and participates in the friend and fundraising efforts of the museum, including providing support and priority to the efforts of the Development Director and the Development Committee.
- Supports the recruitment and professional development of museum volunteers, including docents, and works with the Governance Committee in the recruitment of Board members.
- Ensures that appropriate policies and procedures are in place.
- Participates in the community and acts as an advocate for the arts in various capacities, such as, serving on Boards where other centers of influence also serve; representing the museum and the arts community in speaking engagements for community groups and other external constituencies; writing articles for local newspapers and professional publications; and taking interviews with the media.
- Works with corporations, private collectors and other organizations to develop the Figge's collections and exhibitions.
- Works with the regional, national and international arts community to bring in exhibitions and speakers who will generate interest and attendance and advance the Figge's mission.
- Communicates and maintains positive working relationships with elected officials, city and county administrators, officers of regional foundations and corporations keeping them informed of current events and future plans for the museum.
- Ensures that Figge's collections, including the City of Davenport collection, and other artworks loaned to the Figge are properly handled, exhibited and cared for.
- Ensures compliance with the professional guidelines of the American Alliance of Museums and the Association of Art Museum Directors, Figge Art Museum by-laws, and all applicable state and federal law.
- Other duties as may be required to support and advance the mission, vision and strategic plans of the museum.

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in Art, Art History, Museum Studies or other related field required.
- A minimum of 10 years of experience in an executive or senior-level management capacity, including supervision of a staff of fifteen or more, required.
- Significant experience in museum or non-profit management, including fundraising, finances, personnel, and community and board relations required.
- Broad experience and knowledge of museum standards and practices required.
- Broad experience and relationships with regional and national art museums, associations, and the arts community preferred.
- Curatorial experience preferred.

- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Excellent writing and public speaking skills required.

Salary and Benefits:

- Competitive salary and full benefits package.

START DATE: Fall, 2019

PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION: Diane Frankel, of Management Consultant for the Arts, is the consultant assisting the Figge Art Museum on this search. To be considered for this position, you must submit pertinent information and attach a current résumé, a one-page narrative describing interest and experience, and three professional references utilizing our online application system. The applicant's name should be included as part of each file name submitted:

<https://mcaonline.com/searches...>

Once all your materials have been submitted online, you will receive a confirmation of your submission via the email address you have provided in the application.

Non-discrimination Statement

It is the policy of Figge Museum not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, religion, and actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Pay Act of 1973, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Women and Minorities are especially encouraged to apply. Applicants with disabilities who require special accommodations in the application or testing process should notify the Human Resources Department prior to the closing date.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.