



Washington Project for the Arts (WPA)

Executive Director

www.wpadc.org

THE ORGANIZATION:

Established in 1975, Washington Project for the Arts (WPA) is a leading contemporary arts organization that supports experimental, collaborative, and artist-organized projects. Artists shape and curate all programming, which spans exhibitions, performances, public programs, publications, and community-based initiatives. WPA's distinctive model has helped frame conversations around contemporary art and artist support in Washington, DC and beyond for five decades.

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Executive Director shepherds the organization's projects, dialogue, and advocacy efforts to ensure artists can live, work, and thrive. The Executive Director is committed to WPA's mission and vision and leads the development and implementation of programming in alignment with those values. This role is responsible for organizational leadership, fundraising, strategic planning, financial oversight, daily operations, artist and community engagement, and is public facing.

Key responsibilities include identifying and securing funding, including cultivating new donors and strengthening relationships with current and past supporters; partnering with artists to develop and present innovative programming; expanding earned revenue opportunities; coordinating and overseeing major organizational events such as Art Night and the annual gala; managing staff and organizational operations; and positioning WPA as a leading voice for contemporary art within Washington, DC and beyond.

The Executive Director works in close partnership with WPA's Board of Directors, artists, staff, funders, and leaders across local, national, and international arts, business, philanthropic, and educational communities to support and sustain a vibrant visual arts ecosystem.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Fundraise through building and sustaining relationships with individual and corporate donors; conduct targeted donor cultivation and solicitations; identify grant opportunities; and manage fundraising campaigns, sponsorship initiatives, and special events.
- Cultivate meaningful relationships with new and existing patrons, sponsors, and artists to deepen engagement, expand support, and advance WPA's mission.
- Represent the interests of the Greater Washington arts community while elevating WPA's profile locally, regionally, and beyond.
- Serve as a positive, visible, and credible representative of WPA and the DC arts community.
- Create and manage complex annual budgets and organizational financial planning processes.
- Design and execute high-quality programming in accordance with WPA's vision and goals.
- Develop and manage contemporary art exhibitions, public programs, performances, community-based events, and donor-facing cultural experiences.
- Network within local and regional philanthropic, cultural, and funding communities.
- Demonstrate enduring commitment to artists and to advancing public appreciation and understanding of contemporary art.
- Collaborate with board members, artists, donors and community figures to advance WPA's programming.
- Build credibility within the DC community through dynamic public speaking, relationship-building, donor cultivation, and advocacy abilities.
- Balance artistic vision with organizational sustainability and operational leadership.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 8+ year's experience in an arts or community focused organization
 - Prior leadership experience strongly preferred.
- Superb organizational skills
- Experience building a team and utilizing consultants.
- Be deeply connected to and respected within the DC arts and cultural community, with demonstrated long-standing local ties and relationships.
- Must be aligned with WPA's vision and have a demonstrated passion for art, artists, and the DMV artist community.
- Bring a thoughtful, informed point of view about WPA's role in supporting, advocating for, and elevating artists, while building the organization's artist-centered mission, history, and strengths.

TO APPLY:

Please send a cover letter, CV, and three references (name, affiliation, and contact information) via email to andy@front-row-consulting.com and admin@wpa.org with

“EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR” in the subject line.

The position is located in Washington, DC and offers generous leave and health insurance benefits. WPA is committed to building a diverse workplace and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer.