

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

BACKGROUND

Joan Davidow, Executive Director of Dallas Contemporary, is retiring after nine years in her current position. She is credited with dynamic leadership under which Dallas Contemporary has increased membership, expanded programming and initiated Art Think™. The Board of Directors has accepted Ms. Davidow's decision to retire on May 31, 2010. She will assume the title of Director Emeritus upon her retirement and continue in a consulting role until the end of 2010.

THE ORGANIZATION

Dallas Contemporary has a 30 year history of bringing innovative contemporary art to the City of Dallas. The institution is recognized for compelling exhibitions, generally featuring emerging regional artists, and for the development of the nationally award-winning Art Think™ program which teaches students to think creatively about contemporary art. The mission has been recently expanded to include established artists that are national and international in scope. Museum offices and exhibition space have recently moved to a 1950s industrial building that will serve as a kunsthalle of contemporary art for the City of Dallas. The organization has raised \$4 million of a \$6 million capital campaign to complete renovation of its new home.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2007, Dallas Contemporary received funding for the development of a Strategic Plan to establish a comprehensive direction for the organization. The plan was adopted and is being utilized to guide the institution through 2012. The following goals were established as a part of the Strategic Plan:

- Create a physical space that supports our mission and goals and adds to the city's cultural capital
- Develop a strong artistic vision and cultural identity that explores contemporary art from international as well as regional perspectives
- Broaden access to the principles and practices of Art Think™ as a tool for building creative thinking
- Increase the reputation and profile of Dallas Contemporary in the community and the contemporary art world
- Increase long-term financial sustainability
- Increase organizational capacity and competency

POSITION SCOPE

Arts Leadership:

- Direct overall policy and programming
- Establish curatorial vision and direction
- Collaborate with staff and guest curators to enhance programming and positioning of the institution
- Spearhead marketing and public relations

Management

- Implement, report and periodically update strategic plan
- Manage financials/ budgeting
- Manage programming
- Manage and supervise 6 - 7 person staff
- Generate earned income
- Oversee day to day operations
- Create strong board relations

Development

- Lead development activities within the community
- Complete capital campaign
- Strengthen individual and corporate donor connections
- Initiate and build endowment fund to ensure long term sustainability
- Identify new revenue streams and successfully execute approved plans
- Identify grant resources and spearhead preparation of grant proposals
- Build positive relationships within the community with key stakeholders including members, artists, key and potential donors, gallerists, corporate partners, volunteers and the community at large.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- 10+ years in arts organization
- Demonstrated vision and recognized leadership in the field of contemporary art
- 3-5 years leadership role including capital campaign or major gift funding
- National and international arts and industry relationship access and network
- Masters degree preferred in Fine Art, Art History or Museum Management

DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Patrick Collins

Gwyneth Lloyd

Carol Riddick

Mike Masters

Jo Marie Lilly, ex officio

NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Nominations and Applications will be taken until the position is filled.

Potential candidates should submit a letter of introduction, a general curriculum vitae and contact information with three references to:

directorsearch@dallascontemporary.org