

UC SANTA BARBARA

# ARTS & LECTURES

Miller McCune Executive Director  
University of California, Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures  
Santa Barbara, California

## THE SEARCH

The University of California, Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures (UCSB Arts & Lectures), one of the nation's leading performing arts and lectures programs, seeks a dynamic, collaborative, and visionary leader to serve as the next Miller McCune Executive Director.

With a mission to “educate, entertain, and inspire,” UCSB Arts & Lectures presents a wide range of performances from around the world, fostering a vibrant and inclusive community and providing distinctive experiences in the performing arts, humanities, sciences, politics, public affairs, global culture, and more. Reporting to the Executive Vice Chancellor, Dr. David Marshall, the Executive Director will strategically shape the long-range vision and influence of UCSB Arts & Lectures on both existing and new audiences and communities. The next Executive Director will build on Arts & Lectures’ strong brand and impactful programming across disciplines, ensuring the organization remains a vital destination and convening space for artists, performers, scholars, researchers, and public intellectuals, along with the campus and broader community.

The Executive Director will attract and inspire a diverse and ever-expanding audience and community through innovative, collaborative, and inclusive programming and outreach. Building on successful outreach initiatives including [Access for All](#), [Justice for All](#), and [¡Viva el Arte de Santa Bárbara!](#), they will ensure that UCSB Arts & Lectures remains a bridge between the University and local community, offering rich, multifaceted programming that connects people to one another and creates opportunities for the public to engage with artists, educators, and scholars in meaningful ways. The Executive Director will also work internally to connect Arts & Lectures programming to students, academic units, and disciplines across campus, sustaining the numerous relationships that currently exist while forging new partnerships and pedagogical possibilities. In doing so, they will lead with a keen understanding of the importance of the performing arts and humanities and steer the organization into its next chapter of excellence.

UC Santa Barbara has retained Isaacson, Miller, an international executive search firm, to assist in conducting this important search. All inquiries, applications, and nominations for this opportunity should be directed as indicated at the end of this document.

## ABOUT UC SANTA BARBARA

UC Santa Barbara is a member of the world renowned 10-campus University of California (UC) system and the Association of American Universities (AAU). Known for its highly dynamic intellectual community and beautiful natural setting, the University is committed to excellence in both undergraduate and graduate education and research. UC Santa Barbara is ranked #39 among the best national universities and ranked #13 among all public universities according to U.S. News and World Report. UC Santa Barbara takes pride in its student diversity and in 2015, became the fourth UC campus and the first member of the AAU to be named a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). UCSB is also an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI). UC Santa Barbara serves about 25,000 students, including almost 3,000 graduate students.

UC Santa Barbara offers more than 200 majors, degrees, and credentials in three colleges and two professional schools: [the College of Letters & Science](#), [the College of Engineering](#), [the College of Creative Studies](#), [the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education](#), and [the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management](#). The campus is home to ten national institutes and centers and more than 100 other research institutes and centers, where scholars from across disciplines work together to expand the frontiers of knowledge and contribute to society. UC Santa Barbara also manages seven natural reserves throughout the state.

UC Santa Barbara's faculty, which has close to 1000 Academic Senate faculty, includes four Nobel Laureates; numerous Guggenheim, Fulbright, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, Ford Foundation, and MacArthur Fellows; a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner; National Science Foundation grantees; winners of the National Medal of Science, Fields Medal, and Millennium Technology Prize; and scores of elected members or fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and other leading professional associations. UCSB is a place where cutting-edge research and creative endeavors flourish across a wide array of disciplines and fields.

To learn more, visit <https://www.ucsb.edu>

## THE ARTS AT UCSB

The arts and humanities play a central role in UCSB's commitment to interdisciplinary research and education. UC Santa Barbara boasts 22+ dedicated research centers and academic units in the humanities and fine arts, four celebrated performance programs in theater and dance, and 25 accomplished musical

groups, ensembles and choirs. The campus is home to nationally and internationally renowned performing arts programs and [interdisciplinary centers](#) that integrate research, curriculum, and public engagement.

UCSB's art and performance spaces range from galleries, recital halls, and black box theaters to state-of-the-art screening centers and performance venues. These include the nationally renowned [Art, Design & Architecture Museum](#), Campbell Hall, Hatlen Theater, Karl Geiringer Hall, Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall, Performing Arts Theater, [Pollock Theater](#), and more. Many of these venues partner with UCSB Arts & Lectures to host performances, lectures, special events, and master classes. UCSB Arts & Lectures also presents events and performances in venues throughout Santa Barbara, creating a vital link between the University and its surrounding community.

Generous support from alumni and community members allows UCSB to pursue continued excellence and innovation across the arts and humanities. The new [Arnhold Arts and Humanities Commons](#), established in 2024, will ensure the expansion of successful initiatives in English, Theater and Dance, and public humanities, as well as interdisciplinary teaching and learning. Other endowed programs connecting world-class artists and public intellectuals with the University include the [Arnhold Arts & Lectures Education Initiative](#), the [Dance Guest Artists Program](#), and the [Michael Douglas Foundation Visiting Artist Program](#).

UCSB is committed to training ascendant and experimental artists, performers, and scholars through intensive curriculum and programming that exposes students to craft, professionalism, and global artistic trends. Campus-wide arts programs also shape the cultural and educational experience of students in a range of disciplines. With its rich interdisciplinary resources and record of public engagement, UCSB is well positioned to demonstrate the relevance of the arts across established and emerging fields, and to educate the next generation of engaged, informed, creative citizens.

To learn more, visit <https://www.hfa.ucsb.edu>

## ABOUT UCSB ARTS & LECTURES

UCSB Arts & Lectures is one of the leading organizations of its kind. In the late 1950s, faculty at the then-Santa Barbara College of the University of California began to organize a regular series of cultural events. UC Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures was formally established in 1959, and the city of Santa Barbara, with its longstanding commitment to the arts, proved fertile for cultural programming. Within a decade, UCSB Arts & Lectures had partnered with other regional organizations to form the Alliance of Western Colleges for Cultural Presentations (now the Western Arts Alliance), developing a network that allowed performers from around the world to tour regularly in California and beyond.

Now in its 65<sup>th</sup> season, UCSB Arts & Lectures annually presents more than 100 public events, from critically acclaimed concerts and dance performances by world-renowned artists to talks by groundbreaking authors and film series at UCSB and Santa Barbara-area venues. Arts & Lectures also oversees an outreach program that brings visiting artists and speakers into local classrooms and other venues for master classes, open rehearsals, discussions and more, serving K-12 students, college students and the general public.

Arts & Lectures has reach across the campus and Santa Barbara, operating in the [Arlington Theatre](#), [Campbell Hall](#), the [Granada Theatre](#), [Hahn Hall](#), the [Lobero Theatre](#), and venues throughout the city. Its performances and programs reach well over 100,000 participants per season.

During 25 celebrated and successful years of leadership from Celesta M. Billeci, UCSB Arts & Lectures has grown its reputation as a hub for innovative and sophisticated cultural programming. Arts & Lectures regularly hosts the world's greatest artists and intellectuals, including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Pico Iyer, Yo-Yo Ma, and Wynton Marsalis. It has also been one of the first major venues to feature rising talents such as Jacob Collier and Isabel Wilkerson, and invests significantly in cultivating emerging artists across disciplines. With the support of an engaged donor community and enthusiastic and committed local audiences, Arts & Lectures is able to present bold, risk-taking programming to frequently sold-out audiences.

Drawing on its wide-ranging networks, UCSB Arts & Lectures provides unique learning opportunities at UCSB, throughout Santa Barbara, and beyond. In partnership with the University, Arts & Lectures offers free and reduced-cost student tickets and sponsors guest lectures, class visits, book talks, and other co-curricular programming in order to capture an inclusive audience at each event. K-12 opportunities include field trips, classroom visits, and events held in partnership with nearly 40 local schools and youth organizations. There are opportunities to collaborate on major performances and lectures with other UC campuses and arts presenters in California, and a significant opportunity to grow Arts & Lectures' work as a laboratory for innovation in theater, dance, film, and other creative fields.

Arts & Lectures is also proud to engage diverse audiences around issues of local and national importance. The [Justice for All](#) programming initiative illuminates a wide spectrum of systemic injustice through public talks, readings, and screenings. The [Thematic Learning Initiative](#) fosters discourse around critical issues by putting visiting authors in conversation with community members in relevant professions. [¡Viva el Arte de Santa Bárbara!](#) presents free Spanish-language performances featuring high-quality touring artists in schools and community venues. The next Executive Director will also have the opportunity to grow Arts & Lectures' family and all-ages programming in response to community interest. Education and outreach programs reach nearly 26,000 participants per year and play a vital role in the region's cultural flourishing.

To learn more and view upcoming programs, visit <https://artsandlectures.ucsb.edu>

## ROLE OF THE MILLER MCCUNE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Miller McCune Executive Director of UCSB Arts & Lectures provides visionary and strategic leadership, manages a robust performing arts and lectures program, and maintains strong relationships with UCSB, donors, and the Santa Barbara community and beyond. The next Executive Director will inherit a thriving organization that is ready to imagine and implement the future of arts presenting at UCSB. Reporting to the Executive Vice Chancellor, the Executive Director will lead a dedicated team of 25 full-time staff members and will enjoy the engaged support of a six-member Academic Advisory Council and 15-person Community Arts & Lectures Advisory Council comprised of donors. They will develop collaborative and

close relationships with staff, faculty, administrators, donors, fellow arts leaders, and audiences, and find ways to inspire others to invest their best ideas, resources, and efforts.

UCSB Arts & Lectures is situated within a vibrant and stable arts community, both on the University's campus and in the broader region. The Executive Director will be an essential part of that rich ecosystem. In close partnership with the Executive Vice Chancellor, deans, and Community Advisory Council, the Executive Director will continue to develop a vision for the arts that integrates the University's interdisciplinary resources and augments its mission. The Executive Director will also communicate this vision with internal and external audiences, leading to sustained and growing engagement in Arts & Lectures programming and outreach. They will be an engaged community member, valued collaborator, and champion of the arts in Santa Barbara and beyond, seeking opportunities to advance Arts & Lectures in ways that also serve the broader vision of UCSB.

The Executive Director serves as a cultural ambassador for UCSB Arts & Lectures in greater Santa Barbara, within A&L's network of current and prospective donors, and beyond. This role includes attending events, hosting pre- and post-event gatherings, engaging with donors and stakeholders in a variety of contexts, and understanding the interests of both the University and the local community. The Executive Director will also maintain active involvement with professional organizations and stay connected to industry trends and best practices.

Internally, the Executive Director will be a visionary leader, ensuring that the organization remains financially and operationally sustainable well into the future. They will sustain and refine Arts & Lectures' brand as a forward-thinking organization that supports a wide range of meaningful, impactful, and intellectually rich programming with the highest standards of artistic excellence. In addition to long-range planning and strategy, the Executive Director is responsible for the organization's overall management, including artistic and educational programs; front- and back-of-house operations; physical, financial, and human resources; and fundraising and stewardship. The Executive Director ensures the current and long-term financial health of the organization through a combination of funding sources. UCSB Arts & Lectures has a balanced operating budget of approximately \$10 million, comprised of 43.6% contributed income, 28.8% earned income, 17.5% university support, and 10.1% UCSB student fees.

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director will address the following opportunities and challenges:

### **Advance UCSB Arts & Lectures' distinctive mission in tandem with UCSB's vision**

UCSB Arts & Lectures occupies a distinctive position at the intersection of arts and higher education. The Executive Director will collaborate across artistic, academic, and public communities to bolster the arts and humanities in a leading public research university. As a core part of UCSB's arts and humanities ecosystem, with an impact in every discipline through programming in many topical areas, Arts & Lectures is expected to contribute meaningfully to the educational mission through its programming and outreach.

The Executive Director will continue to catalyze campus and community discourse through high-quality, compelling programs. Working closely with the Executive Vice Chancellor, deans, and other administrators, the Executive Director will also contribute to the long-range vision for the arts at UCSB and design partnerships to support and augment this vision. Drawing on UCSB's intellectual resources, the Executive Director will serve as a leader and thought partner within Santa Barbara's network of arts, education, and community organizations. By maintaining a strong artistic and scholarly connection between the campus and community, the Executive Director will sustain the vibrant exchange of art and ideas that makes UCSB Arts & Lectures an internationally recognized cultural destination.

### **Sustain Arts & Lectures' unique culture and high-performing team**

Arts & Lectures has built a dynamic and high-performing environment for its seasoned professional staff. Together, they program, execute, and participate in exceptional events, fostering a culture that thrives on teamwork and shared passion. The Executive Director and staff will actively engage and collaborate with donors, ticket holders, UCSB students and faculty to deliver special experiences with artists, lectures and authors. This includes intimate gatherings, master classes and K-12 events with a range of artists and intellectuals, designed to bring A&L's many constituencies together in unique ways.

The Executive Director will oversee a team of staff members to develop and sustain Arts & Lectures' unique culture and create a positive and highly effective work environment. They will encourage and model an atmosphere of open communication, collaboration, risk-taking, and respect with a deep commitment to inclusive excellence. The Executive Director will lead with both boldness and sensitivity.

### **Continue to program relevant and successful seasons**

UCSB Arts & Lectures is known for its compelling and diverse programming and has built a loyal audience that includes longtime subscribers, single ticket buyers, and UCSB students, faculty, and staff. The next Executive Director will sustain a unique programming slate, ensuring a mix of upcoming and established talent across a range of disciplines. The Executive Director will continually enhance the quality and diversity of programming, tapping into the wants of both new and existing audiences and seeking opportunities to cultivate emerging talent. To do so, it is important to develop relationships with artists, ensembles, intellectuals, organizations, and institutions around the world that are pioneering in their fields. Given UC Santa Barbara's location between major cultural hubs, there is also an opportunity to draw from organizations and events across California to design programming that speaks to broader cultural conversations. While doing so, the Executive Director will ensure that programming contributes to University-wide priorities and continues to attract audiences from across the campus.

### **Cultivate and steward financial resources and external partnerships**

UCSB Arts & Lectures is financially sustainable, with a mix of earned and contributed revenue streams. The Executive Director will bring strong business sense and financial acumen to this role, effectively managing existing resources and strategically seeking opportunities to increase funding through individual

and corporate philanthropy, grants, and ticket sales. In partnership with the Community Advisory Council, the Executive Director will design creative fundraising opportunities that connect passionate supporters with visiting artists and speakers.

The Executive Director will be an experienced and enthusiastic steward of relationships with donors and Community Advisory Council members. In the coming years, there will be a significant opportunity to cultivate a new generation of supporters and Community Advisory Council members in Santa Barbara. Similarly, there is great opportunity to further cultivate relationships with arts organizations in the greater Santa Barbara community and beyond, including presenting organizations, university presenters, talent agencies, and other external partners.

### **Engage Santa Barbara's diverse communities on campus and beyond**

The next Executive Director will work quickly to establish the relationships and credibility required to be recognized as a cultural leader at UCSB. There is desire for enhanced collaboration with UCSB Arts & Lectures on campus. The Executive Director will act as the connective tissue between Arts & Lectures and the University, proactively reaching out to students, faculty, and staff, connecting artists and speakers with campus life, and developing new collaborative programs and projects that integrate the arts and academic pursuits. They will also continue to encourage the participation of the campus community through programming, master classes, and special events with performers and speakers.

Equally important will be the Executive Director's ability to engage communities within Santa Barbara and the region. The Executive Director will seek mutually enriching partnerships that will increase artistic innovation, draw audiences, and ensure inclusion. They will sustain UCSB Arts & Lectures' commitment to access and continue to seek opportunities to reach new audiences. The Executive Director will position UCSB Arts & Lectures to articulate the unique capacity of the arts to forge connections across differences and champion equity and inclusion in relationships both on campus and off.

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS**

The Executive Director will be an experienced, collaborative leader and administrator with presence and stature in the performing arts. They will also have:

- Deep experience and recognized leadership in arts presenting, including a strong and broad-based network of peers and artists and the ability to leverage those connections to build transformative programming;
- High energy and enthusiasm, strong interpersonal and leadership skills, sensitivity to community and donor needs, and the ability to build trust and rapport with audiences, donors, community advisory council members, staff, students, faculty, and University leadership;
- Experience energizing and engaging a board or advisory committee;



- A demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging;
- Demonstrated success as an enthusiastic and accomplished fundraiser with individuals, foundations, and corporate sponsors;
- Financial acumen commensurate with running a complex arts or presenting organization;
- An appetite for and prior success with collaborations and partnerships on a university campus and/or with external partners;
- A track record of successful partnerships with performing arts venues and experience with production staff and contractors;
- Intellectual curiosity and the ability to capitalize on UCSB's academic and institutional resources;
- Experience working with talent and booking agencies;
- A track record of success leading a complex organization with multiple stakeholders and known for quality and excellence;
- Proven ability to recruit, organize, mentor, and retain staff, and create a supportive, team-oriented work environment;
- Creative marketing savvy with the ability to both plan and execute campaigns and initiatives;
- Comfort with technology and emerging digital platforms;
- Excellent writing and communication skills.

## COMPENSATION AND LOCATION

The budgeted annual salary range that the University reasonably expects to pay for this position is \$225,000 to \$300,000. Salary offers are determined based on final candidate qualifications and experience. The full annual salary range for this position is \$184,800 to \$379,400.

Located 100 miles up the coast from Los Angeles, Santa Barbara is famous for its natural beauty, intellectual vitality, and thriving cultural scene. The city and its surrounding area provides boundless opportunities for outdoor activities including cycling, hiking, surfing, kayaking, swimming, and running. The Santa Barbara metropolitan area attracts visitors from around the world for its cultural reputation. With its expansive beaches, breathtaking vistas, and world-class hotels, restaurants, and wineries, Santa Barbara is consistently ranked among the best places to live in California and nationally. To learn more about Santa Barbara and the surrounding region, please see [www.santabarbara.com](http://www.santabarbara.com).



## APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. For best consideration, please apply by April 1, 2025. Information regarding inquiries, nominations, referrals, and applications can be found on the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/uc-santa-barbara-arts-lectures/executive-director>.

Electronic submission of materials is required.

Courtney Wilk-Mandel, Sarah James, Aku Ammah-Tagoe, Cara Meyers  
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