

# THE BRONX MUSEUM

Search for the Executive Director  
The Bronx Museum of the Arts  
New York, New York

## THE SEARCH

The Bronx Museum of the Arts (The Bronx Museum) invites a dynamic leader to serve as its next Executive Director. This is a transformative opportunity to shape the future of a storied and influential contemporary arts institution dedicated to elevating emerging artists from marginalized communities and diversifying the accepted canon since its founding in 1971.

The Bronx Museum has become a key cultural and civic hub in the Bronx, connecting local and global visitors, residents, and artists through its distinct permanent collection, groundbreaking exhibitions, and educational programs. As a reflection of the city's energy and complexity, the Museum is more than a venue—it's a crossroads of creativity and community.

As the Museum prepares to unveil its highly anticipated multi-story expansion, the incoming Executive Director will have the opportunity to lead during a pivotal chapter in its history. In its next phase, The Bronx Museum is poised to grow as a platform for innovative exhibitions, a trusted community partner, a source of pride, and a thriving hub for education and artistic collaboration.

The Executive Director will embody The Bronx Museum's passion for fostering artistic discovery, cultural dialogue, and community engagement. With a strong vision and collaborative spirit, they will steer the Museum toward new heights while honoring its rich legacy.

The Bronx Museum has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in identifying its next Executive Director. Applications, nominations, and inquiries should be directed as outlined at the end of this document.

## THE BRONX MUSEUM OF THE ARTS

Since its founding in 1971, The Bronx Museum has been dedicated to showcasing the work of artists of color and other marginalized communities—long before similar efforts were prioritized by major art institutions. The Museum continues to be a vital cultural hub in New York City, supporting a dynamic and inclusive arts community.

This dedication to accessibility is further exemplified by The Bronx Museum's commitment to providing free admission to its exhibitions and programs for over a decade, making it one of the largest contemporary art museums in New York City with this initiative. This commitment reflects the Museum's mission to make art accessible to all, supporting its core values of culture, community, social justice, visibility, and youth development.

Aligned with its mission of community engagement and accessibility, the Museum highlights contemporary art that resonates with the Bronx's vibrant community and stands at the intersection of art and social justice. It empowers communities through cultural and educational resources while championing artistic freedom and expression. The Bronx Museum also focuses on youth development, offering immersive art experiences that amplify the voices of younger generations and nurture future artists and art lovers.

The Museum's [permanent collection](#) of nearly 2,000 works highlights paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, and mixed media by artists of African, Asian, and Latin American heritage, as well as those whose practices have been deeply influenced by the Bronx. The collection includes well-established names like Nina Chanel Abney, Sanford Biggers, Ana Mendieta, Carrie Mae Weems, and Martin Wong, as well as emerging talents such as Lucia Hierro and Quisqueya Henriquez. In addition to its permanent collection, the Museum organizes a dynamic array of self-curated and traveling exhibitions, along with an expansive calendar of public programs and educational initiatives, including an artist residency program that supports emerging local talent.

As part of its ongoing growth, the Bronx Museum is currently undergoing a major renovation, which will introduce a new multi-story entrance and lobby designed by Marvel Architects. While the renovation is underway, all exhibitions and events are held in the north galleries, with the south galleries scheduled to reopen in 2026.

The Museum's history of relocation began when it was originally housed in the public rotunda of the Bronx County Courthouse. In 1982, it moved to a former synagogue on Grand Concourse and 165th Street, donated by the City of New York. In 2006, the Museum expanded with a 16,000-square-foot addition designed by Arquitectonica to support its growing youth and family programs. This expansion included a major gallery, flexible event spaces, an outdoor terrace, and a dedicated floor for educational programs and classrooms. Today, The Bronx Museum continues to grow as an essential part of the cultural landscape of New York City.

A hallmark of its commitment to fostering artistic talent is the Museum's flagship [AIM Fellowship](#) program. With a legacy of supporting over 1,200 emerging artists—many of whom have gone on to illustrious careers, including Glenn Ligon, Diana Al-Hadid, LaToya Ruby Frazier, and Saya Woolfalk—the AIM Fellowship offers career management resources, mentorship, and developmental opportunities, empowering artists to navigate the complex professional art world. Through its unwavering commitment

to accessibility, cultural reflection, and community engagement, the Bronx Museum continues to serve as a cultural cornerstone in New York City and beyond.

The Bronx Museum has an operating budget of \$3.9 million and a team of 20 full-time and part-time staff. To learn more about The Bronx Museum, please visit <https://bronxmuseum.org/about-us/>.

## THE BRONX

The Bronx Museum is in the heart of New York City's most complex and vibrant borough. Known for its youth and cultural diversity, the Bronx is a center of creativity, history, and pride. The borough offers abundant green spaces, internationally leading zoos and botanical gardens, important educational institutions, and, of course, globally influential pop culture movements and artists across art forms.

The Bronx Museum bridges community vitality with contemporary art. With initiatives like [the Teen Council's](#) exhibitions and the AIM Fellowship for emerging artists, the Museum further amplifies underrepresented voices. Rooted in a borough that melds history and legacy with a preview of our cultural future, The Bronx Museum encourages creativity, inclusion, individual and collective strength, and cultural celebration. For some additional fun facts about the Bronx, please visit <https://www.movoto.com/guide/bronx-ny/moving-to-the-bronx/>.

## ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reporting to The Bronx Museum's 32-member Board of Trustees, the Executive Director will champion artists and contemporary art and advance the Museum's mission, leading a dedicated team toward forward-thinking initiatives with impact. As the Museum's public face, the Executive Director will nurture relationships with artists, donors, community partners, and stakeholders, elevating The Bronx Museum's profile and reach. The ideal candidate should possess the following leadership qualities and experience:

- A passionate advocate for the transformative power of contemporary art with the ability to inspire and persuasively communicate that power to diverse audiences.
- An entrepreneurial approach and strategic thinker who can identify and realize funding opportunities that enhance The Bronx Museum and advance its mission.
- Proven leadership skills and a commitment to active civic participation in the Bronx community and New York City.
- Proven expertise in arts administration with a strong commitment to active engagement in New York City's arts and cultural landscape.
- Demonstrated appetite and experience successfully raising funds and resources from individuals, institutions, and public sources.
- A track record of cooperation and collaboration that includes strong interpersonal and communication skills effective among diverse constituencies.

- Evidence of operational excellence: able to assess The Bronx Museum's financial performance and health and strengthen both, as needed.

The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day operation of The Bronx Museum, including its administration, employees, and volunteers, financial operations, fundraising, public profile, and development of its collection and related scholarship. The role provides leadership and assistance to the Board of Trustees in accomplishing the Museum's mission and vision of celebrating the power of art.

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **Strategically lead The Bronx Museum into a new era.**

The Executive Director will join The Bronx Museum at a pivotal juncture as it prepares to unveil its new building in 2026. This involves providing artistic and strategic direction anchored in a unifying vision for the Museum. The Executive Director will collaborate with the Board, staff, and partners to outline a clear and compelling purpose that secures an inspiring, healthy, sustainable future for the Museum and its community.

In this process, the Executive Director will prioritize engaging and empowering diverse constituencies, fostering collaboration, and uniting the team behind a shared ambition. This comprehensive effort will culminate in a plan that guides future decision-making, drives exciting programming, and propels fundraising efforts aligned with the Museum's mission.

Additionally, the Executive Director will be instrumental in establishing The Bronx Museum as a prominent and distinctive institution within the New York City art scene and beyond. This will include enhancing the Museum's presence at major art fairs and key events, building strong relationships with media and art organizations, and forging strategic partnerships with influential leaders to amplify the Museum's impact and visibility.

### **Expand funding resources to support the Museum's curatorial, public, and educational programming.**

In collaboration with the Board, the Executive Director will strengthen the Museum's financial position and raise its profile within New York City's civic and creative circles. With a proven track record in donor cultivation, they will grow the Museum's charitable assets by enhancing existing funds and generating new ones. These efforts will support the Museum's collection, community outreach, and educational initiatives while enabling the development of impactful exhibitions. The successful candidate will strategically deploy financial resources and explore opportunities for diversification and increased impact. An enterprising spirit will be highly valued in exploring these opportunities.

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**Maintain a close working relationship with the Board of Trustees.**

A top priority for the incoming Executive Director will be to cultivate a strong, dynamic relationship with The Bronx Museum's Board of Trustees, energizing them to be impactful partners. The Executive Director will foster cohesion and a shared sense of purpose. By aligning each trustee's unique strengths and passions with the Museum's goals, they will inspire active engagement in fundraising, advocacy, and strategic growth. The Executive Director will motivate and empower the Board as ambassadors, building their commitment to advance the Museum's mission and vision.

**Foster strong partnerships with museum staff, empowering them to excel and drive the Museum's mission forward.**

The Executive Director will inspire and mobilize a dedicated professional staff to achieve organizational priorities. They will support a culture of open, inclusive communication, fostering an already strong sense of community within the Museum. Colleagues will feel empowered to perform at their best, model and support best practices, hold themselves and each other accountable, and work towards enhancing team morale. The successful leader will instill a shared belief in the transformative power of art and the potential of both the staff and The Bronx Museum.

As part of their leadership, the Executive Director will evaluate and streamline the Museum's organizational structures to ensure operational efficiency and effectiveness. They will focus on aligning resources with priorities, enhancing collaboration across teams, and fostering an environment where innovation and creativity can thrive. Through thoughtful restructuring, the Executive Director will position the Museum to operate at its highest capacity while meeting the needs of its dynamic and diverse community.

**Actively engage and empower the Bronx community, fostering connection and collaboration.**

The Bronx Museum is deeply embedded in the heart of the Bronx, a borough with a dynamic and ever-evolving arts legacy shaped by generations of immigrants, groundbreaking artistic movements, and powerful social activism. Globally celebrated as the birthplace of hip-hop, the Bronx has been a driving force behind creative movements since the 1960s, continuously shaping the cultural landscape with its resilience, innovation, and artistic excellence. Its role as a cultural hub is pivotal in drawing new audiences and passionate artists and advocates. With its prime location, growing interest from outside the borough, and increased access to public transportation, the Museum is poised to expand its reach, attract more visitors, and foster deeper ties across boundaries.

The Executive Director will play a central role in engaging with the Bronx's dynamic arts ecosystem and building relationships with local artists, corporate and civic leaders, and peer institutions. Their leadership will be instrumental in enriching the cultural landscape of one of New York City's most diverse and

irrepressible boroughs. Through innovative exhibitions and programming, they will help strengthen community connections and elevate the Bronx's artistic legacy to new heights.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

While no one individual will embody every quality, the successful candidate will bring many of the following professional and personal qualifications:

- A palpable passion for art and the possibilities that contemporary art creates as a respected voice and leader in the field.
- Experience executing best practices in the museum field; knowledge of collections care and management.
- A record of success in fundraising and relationship building with individuals, corporations, government, and other granting organizations; ability to lead and supervise the development team and donor relations.
- Experience leading, serving, and working with a nonprofit board.
- Experience working with a variety of constituencies to create and support mutually beneficial partnerships and other externally focused initiatives.
- A fair, collaborative, direct, and transparent leadership style that engenders trust and support among The Bronx Museum staff while holding the team, self, and, as appropriate, the Board accountable to professional standards and deliverables.
- The ability to communicate well and work cooperatively and effectively with staff, Board members, external stakeholders, and the visiting public.
- A record of successful executive leadership, including strategic planning and implementation, effective management of human, physical, and financial resources, and a keen understanding of budget oversight.
- A record of dedication to and success in advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Ability to model and establish a culture of mutual respect, transparency, and empowerment.
- Intellectual and emotional integrity, critical listening, perspective, and, ideally, good humor.

## COMPENSATION AND LOCATION

This is a permanent, full-time position in New York City with a targeted starting salary range of \$250,000–\$280,000.

## APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Confidential inquiries, nominations/referrals, and resumes/curriculum vitae can be sent electronically and in confidence to:

Sarah James, Rebecca Swartz, Quizayra Gonzalez, Harley Bartles  
Isaacson, Miller

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/bronx-museum-arts/executive-director>

The Bronx Museum is committed to inclusivity as one of its core values. As an institution, we appreciate and leverage our broad and distinct differences, and involve and reflect the communities we serve, align our policies, practices, and resources that eliminate barriers so that people of all races, cultures, socioeconomic status, and perspectives have genuine opportunities to contribute and thrive; and create an environment in which everyone feels valued and respected.