



VICE PRESIDENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE AND DIRECTOR OF THE ASIA SOCIETY MUSEUM  
ASIA SOCIETY  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

## **THE SEARCH**

The Asia Society seeks an entrepreneurial and visionary leader to serve as the next Vice President of Arts and Culture and Director of the Asia Society Museum (VP and Director). This role is responsible for the Asia Society's museum in New York and leading the overall arts and culture strategy and vision. The VP and Director will collaborate with all programmatic aspects of Asia Society to facilitate interdisciplinary opportunities as well as maximize the potential of collaboration between the Centers that compose the Asia Society's global network.

The Asia Society's purpose is to navigate shared futures for Asia and the world across policy, arts and culture, and education. Headquartered in New York City, with 15 centers located in Asia, Europe, and the U.S., the Asia Society fosters insight, encourages engagement, elevates regional voices, informs and educates new audiences, addresses complex – and where necessary – contentious challenges, engages in creative problem-solving, and helps deliver real solutions for the benefit of all.

The VP and Director will report directly to the President and CEO and serve as a member of the senior management team. This leader will possess experience and knowledge in arts fundraising, collection and exhibition development, and the broad engagement of visual arts, performing arts, and film programming. This individual's passion and dedication to traditional and contemporary Asian art and culture will inspire existing patrons and reach new audiences. The Asia Society seeks innovation in developing an exciting new vision for the global arts and expertise in management and strategy to support the execution of bold ideas based on best practices, cutting-edge trends, and digital endeavors.

A search committee has been formed and Mr. Jack Gorman of Isaacson, Miller - a global executive recruiting firm, has been retained to support the committee in this important recruitment. Confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications can be directed to the firm as indicated at the end of this document.

## ASIA SOCIETY

The Asia Society, founded by John D. Rockefeller 3rd in 1956, is a global non-profit dedicated to identifying future pathways for Asia and the world which enhance peace, prosperity, freedom, equality, and sustainability. The Asia Society has major centers and public buildings in New York, Hong Kong, and Houston and additional locations in Delhi, Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, Paris, San Francisco, Seoul, Sydney, Tokyo, Washington, D.C., and Zurich that comprise the global network. The Asia Society has a dynamic and impressive board of trustees of more than 70 international leaders representing thought leadership in policy, the arts, and education, as well as in governance and philanthropy.

Initially established to promote greater knowledge of Asia in the United States, the Society today is a global institution that fulfills its educational mandate through a wide range of cross-disciplinary programming. The Asia Society houses the [Asia Society Policy Institute](#) (ASPI), a think- and do-tank, and the Asia Society Museum, which presents a wide range of traditional and contemporary Asian and Asian American art. As economies and cultures have become more interconnected, the Society's programs have expanded to address a range of issues and pressing concerns in Asia.

"Those of us who had a hand in establishing Asia Society shared a basic intent: to contribute to a broader and deeper understanding between the peoples of the United States and Asia," Mr. Rockefeller said in a speech given in New York City in 1967. "We founders of Asia Society were confident that Asians and Americans are capable of a richer and more meaningful mutual understanding, because of shared hopes, fears and aspirations."

## ASIA SOCIETY MUSEUM

The Asia Society Museum presents a wide range of traditional, modern, and contemporary exhibitions of Asian and Asian American art, taking new approaches to familiar masterpieces and introducing under-recognized arts and artists. Through exhibitions and public programs, the Asia Society provides a forum for the issues and viewpoints reflected in both traditional and contemporary Asian art, and in Asia today.

The Asia Society Museum collection comprises both traditional and contemporary Asian and Asian American art. The masterpiece-quality Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection of traditional Asian art, bequeathed to Asia Society in 1979 after the death of Mr. Rockefeller, includes nearly 300 Asian artworks and artifacts from diverse nations—such as Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, China, Korea, and Japan—that date from the eleventh century BCE to the nineteenth century CE. It has particular strengths in Chinese ceramics of the Song and Ming periods, Chola-period Indian bronzes, and Southeast Asian sculptures. The traditional collection also includes a number of objects bequeathed from the estate of Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller, acquisitions, and works from other collectors. The growing contemporary collection, initiated in 2007, features over 100 significant works of video, animation, photography, and new media art by artists from Asia and the Americas.

## **BUDGET**

The Asia Society 501(c)3 has an operating budget of approximately \$28 million. The VP and Director will oversee a budget of approximately \$3-5 million.

## **LEADERSHIP**

### **The Honorable Kevin Rudd, President and CEO**

Kevin Rudd became President and CEO of the Asia Society in January 2021 and has been president of the Asia Society Policy Institute since January 2015. He served as Australia's 26th Prime Minister from 2007 to 2010, then as Foreign Minister from 2010 to 2012, before returning as Prime Minister in 2013. He is also a leading international authority on China. He began his career as a China scholar, serving as an Australian diplomat in Beijing before entering Australian politics.

For more information on Mr. Rudd: <https://asiasociety.org/policy-institute/honorable-kevin-rudd>

### **VICE PRESIDENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE AND DIRECTOR OF THE ASIA SOCIETY MUSEUM**

This role reports to the President and CEO and is the senior leader responsible for the Asia Society Museum, the overall arts and culture vision and strategy, arts fundraising, collection and exhibition development, and performing arts and film programming. The VP and Director will be an integral and proactive member of the senior management team of the Society, providing arts-related expertise to the President and CEO and collaborating with peers in ASPI, Education, and other areas. The VP and Director will find strong support from the [Board of Trustees](#) who are committed to the arts. The person in this role will help identify and recruit Trustees and members of the arts advisory councils.

The incumbent will also set the vision for the New York Center including the store, café, and programming. The VP and Director will collaborate with all programmatic aspects of the Asia Society, creating and facilitating interdisciplinary programmatic opportunities; as well as building on the Asia Society's legacy of leadership in the arts area, creating global conversations centered on arts and culture to broader societal contexts. The incumbent will take a leadership role with Asia Society's global centers in arts and culture. The VP and Director will be positioned as an insightful impresario with a strategy to maximize the pieces of the Asia Society. The person in this role will be empowered to make change to support a groundbreaking vision.

The VP and Director oversees the Deputy Director and Senior Executive Associate, and currently has an overall team of 10. The Global Artistic Programs team includes:

- Deputy Director, Global Artistic Programs, and Deputy Director, Museum
- Senior Executive Associate
- John H. Foster Associate Curator, Pre-Modern Art

- Director, Culture and Diplomacy and Performing Arts
- Senior Registrar and Collections Manager
- Senior Registrar
- Exhibition Installation and Production Manager
- Publications Coordinator and Editor
- Manager, Interdisciplinary Arts
- Manager, Programs

## **OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

### **Define the artistic vision for Asia Society and lead the achievement of strategic goals**

The VP and Director will create and deploy an innovative strategic vision for the arts and culture programs and Museum. The vision will be inspiring and future-focused to define how the Asia Society should engage in the arts to remain on the cutting edge. This will be inclusive of the wide variety of arts and culture that encompass Asia and attuned to artistic trends. The strategic goals will also work to greatly elevate visibility and visitorship at the Asia Society New York Center at 725 Park Avenue by overseeing the creation of exciting and unique programs and offerings. A holistic vision will account for being both a physical space for interaction and embracing digital engagement. The VP and Director will have the keen ability to develop a vision that is bold and captivating, paired with tireless communication to build the support around achieving big goals.

### **Increase the Museum's financial resources**

The Asia Society Museum is a lean operation that must execute at the highest quality for engaging the public of New York City and those across the globe. The VP and Director will bring a passion for fundraising and proven track record of raising gifts in the six- and seven-figure range. Deep relationship-building in New York and connection to global supporters of sharing Asian culture is essential to growing the Museum's capacity. Building and maintaining a strong financial base will involve operational support as well as cultivating support of arts programs, exhibitions and global conferences, and other opportunities. The VP and Director will take the lead role in expanding and diversifying funding from individual donors, foundations, corporations, and government funders.

In addition to fundraising, the VP and Director must have a savvy and resourceful approach to financial management. Growing the membership base – from museum-goers to patrons and arts council members – and developing a strategy to maximize a compelling concept for the Asia Society Museum store and café/restaurant will increase earned revenue. A long-term strategy for healthy financial positioning will be developed through both annual and longer-term budgets, working closely with the President and CEO and the CFO.

### **Raise the visibility and recognition of the Museum and artistic programming**

The Asia Society has a long legacy of excellence in the arts. In recent years, many more institutions are engaging in exhibitions and programming related to Asian art. The VP and Director will establish the Museum as sui generis and its programs and exhibitions to be known as “can’t miss” events. The strong reputation of the organization will be the foundation for continued recognition by audiences, particularly in New York, for being innovative and engaging.

### **Foster the delivery of outstanding, relevant, and bold artistic exhibitions and programs**

The Asia Society engages in a wide range of arts representing all cultures of Asia, visual and performing arts, and both traditional and contemporary art. The VP and Director is ultimately responsible for overseeing all collection and exhibition development, as well as in-person and virtual symposia, performing arts, and film and other programming. While supported by an expert staff and partnership with professionals in the field, the VP and Director must have the ability to think strategically and entrepreneurially not only in terms of art exhibitions, but in deploying digital first modalities for presentation, interaction, and communication. Asia Society’s broad scope and network, paired with its size and focus of mission, should allow for nimbleness in programming and the ability to execute groundbreaking work that captivates audiences.

### **Collaborate with and leverage the network of global Centers**

The global network of Asia Society consists of 15 centers in Asia, Europe, and the United States. While each operates with independent leadership, there is a distinct opportunity for collaboration to maximize resources and garner exciting engagement worldwide. The VP and Director will take a collaborative and proactive approach to leading the network to unlock its potential. The VP and Director will provide guidance and arts expertise to other Centers, supporting arts events such as arts galas, art excursions, and global conferences, such as the [Asia Arts and Museum Network](#). Building upon successful events and exploring new joint efforts will be essential to a bold global vision.

### **Lead, develop, and inspire a high-performing team**

The Museum is home to a dedicated, expert, and dynamic professional team. The VP and Director will support and develop talent to build a strong arts and culture and New York Center team. The VP and Director will have the opportunity to organize these departments to maximize effectiveness and impact. This includes the opportunity to make key hires, including for the role of Deputy Director, who will work closely with the new leader. The VP and Director will lead an environment that enables, supports, and rewards outstanding work. In considering growth and aspirations for the future, the VP and Director will take care to build the capacity of the team to maintain the highest quality in delivering programs.

The Asia Society is committed to the principles of [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) in all its work and across the workplace.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

- The VP and Director will have strong educational and experiential credentials in the arts and culture area, with knowledge in Asian art. An advanced degree is a plus;
- Strong leadership skills to effectively work with, manage, motivate, and inspire a diverse staff in New York as well as an ability to effectively collaborate with other centers;
- Proven track record as a team builder and leader;
- Proven experience in raising funds for programs and ability to manage finances for them;
- Ability to work with diverse stakeholders, ranging from Trustees, government and business leaders, funders, to educators and young people of diverse backgrounds;
- Fluency in digital platforms and tools, especially as used in the arts world, is a plus;
- 15 or more years of related work experience preferred;
- Excellent writing and verbal skills.

## Compensation and Location

This position is located at Asia Society's headquarters in New York City and will require international travel to promote this work and support other Centers' work in the arts. The compensation range for this position is \$240,000 – 300,000. Compensation within this range is determined by skills, experience, and organizational equity.

## Applications, Inquiries, and Nominations

Confidential inquiries, nominations, referrals, and applications (including resumes and brief letters of interest) should be sent electronically to the following:

Jack Gorman, Partner  
Ryan Leichenauer, Managing Associate  
Sandeep Kaur, Search Coordinator  
Isaacson, Miller  
[www.imsearch.com/8778](http://www.imsearch.com/8778)

The Asia Society is an equal opportunity employer – F/M/Disability/Vet/Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity. Women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply.

We encourage a positive, supportive, and respectful working environment that rewards civility, inclusivity, collegiality, and teamwork across all our disciplines. We are committed to the principles of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in all our work and across the workplace. We have zero tolerance for any form of discrimination.