



The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Search for the Associate Vice President, Art Experience
Houston, Texas

Executive Summary

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MD Anderson), ranked #1 in the nation and one of the largest cancer centers of its kind in the world, invites nominations and applications for the inaugural role of Associate Vice President, Art Experience (AVP for Art Experience). As MD Anderson embarks on a multi-billion-dollar capital project to build and expand their physical footprint throughout the state of Texas and rejuvenate existing facilities, this is an exciting opportunity for an innovative and dynamic leader in the arts to develop a strategic vision to imagine and develop the premier art experience in healthcare, creating spaces of inspiration and hope.

Reporting directly to the Senior Vice President of Institutional Affairs and Chief Brand and Communications Officer, the AVP for Art Experience will collaborate with the President and other senior leaders across the organization to plan, curate, and maintain a major, multi-year investment in art collection and art installations. The collection and installations will be a destination for patients, caregivers, employees, and the public – locally, nationally, and internationally. The AVP for Art Experience will bring a deep understanding of art and a dedicated focus to realize arts fullest potential to heal, enhance stakeholders' experiences, and optimize the overall ambiance of healthcare and public spaces across MD Anderson facilities. The AVP for Art Experience will have the opportunity to lead curation in new buildings and facilities, working with architects, a design firm, and facilities leaders to infuse art from the early design phase. In addition to developing an art experience and curation vision, the AVP for Art Experience will partner with philanthropic efforts, engage with key stakeholders internally and externally to explore and assess the art experience possibilities and impact, and develop strategies for an art program that furthers patient, staff, and community engagement.

A list of the desired qualifications and characteristics of the AVP for Art Experience can be found at the conclusion of this document, which was prepared by MD Anderson with the assistance of Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to provide background information and detail the key opportunities and challenges related to the position. All confidential applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed to the parties listed at the conclusion of this document.

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

First established in 1941 by the Texas Legislature as the Texas State Cancer Hospital and Division of Cancer Research and renamed in 1942 as the M. D. Anderson Hospital for Cancer Research of The University of Texas to honor the support from the MD Anderson Foundation, MD Anderson has evolved for more than 80 years to become one of the world's most respected cancer centers devoted exclusively to cancer patient care, research, education and prevention. MD Anderson is one of the nation's original three

comprehensive cancer centers designated by the National Cancer Act of 1971 and is one of 53 National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers today. The mission of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is to eliminate cancer in Texas, the nation, and the world through outstanding programs that integrate patient care, research and prevention, and through education for undergraduate and graduate students, trainees, professionals, employees and the public. With 25,000 employees, including over 1,900 faculty members, working in over 25 buildings in Houston and Central Texas, MD Anderson has supported more than two million people in their cancer care journeys. Annually, MD Anderson invests more than \$1 billion in cancer research, with total operating revenue of \$6.6 billion. The size of its Texas Medical Center campus is unparalleled at 16 million square feet, with plans underway for a massive expansion. In its most recent fiscal year, \$324 million in fundraising was achieved with 130,000 donations and 90,000 donors.

MD Anderson's core values of caring, integrity, discovery, safety, and stewardship are embedded in their guiding vision to be the premier cancer center in the world. For more information, please explore some of the resources available online including [MD Anderson's externally facing website](#) which attracts more than 20 million visitors annual; the [Cancerwise blog](#), which features cancer patient and caregiver stories, experts' insights, research breakthroughs and clinical innovations, and other updates from MD Anderson; MD Anderson's [Annual Report and quick facts](#) as well as the current [Strategic Plan](#); and social media channels for MD Anderson such as [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly Twitter), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

Current Context

As healthcare facilities nationally and internationally focus efforts on creating physical spaces of hope and inspiration that reflect the spirit of healing for a more patient-focused experience, MD Anderson is poised to set the stage for creating the healthcare environment of the future. Under the leadership of President Dr. Peter WT Pisters, the concept of a vibrant arts experience at the intersection of health and wellness was spearheaded with the creation of the inaugural role of the Associate Vice President for Art Experience. MD Anderson's growth and impact has been astronomical in recent years and continues to expand in the form of investments in the construction of physical spaces. MD Anderson is embarking on one of the largest expansions in the health and biotechnology space and is anticipating more than \$10 billion invested in a facilities expansion over the span of next decade.

In early Fall of 2023, MD Anderson broke ground on a new 600,000-square-foot facility that will be home to the South Campus Research Building, a seven-story state-of-the-art research facility with inspiring public spaces to facilitate exceptional science. Additional plans for new construction include a \$1.6 billion cancer center in Austin and an inpatient tower and two ambulatory buildings in the Texas Medical Center, as well as a \$500 million facility in Sugarland, Texas. MD Anderson has existing support for arts integration through the Art Program and Art Committee, which assist in locating and identifying artworks in the existing collection for placement in locations such as lobbies, exam rooms, public corridors, and clinical reception areas among others. With the creation of the AVP for Art Experience, there is a desire for a more holistic, cohesive and coalesced art experience vision and strategy led by the AVP in partnership with a newly designed structure that optimizes internal and external stakeholder involvement.

Role of the Associate Vice President for Art Experience

The AVP for Art Experience will be the resident fine art expert in creating spaces that move, inspire, and help contribute to a holistically healing environment. They will lead the vision and strategy to spark people's imaginations and create a unique experience between art, health and wellness for patients, families, employees, and the broader community of key stakeholders. This leader will integrate art with architecture and curate a distinguished art collection that creatively incorporates the mission, vision and values of MD Anderson and reflects the diverse and intersectional community of Houston and more broadly, the state of Texas. The AVP for Art Experience will work collaboratively with philanthropic endeavors, engaging with constituents who share a passion for experiential art and may be interested in financially supporting or donating pieces to the collection. As an inaugural role, the incoming AVP for Art Experience will have the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy of excellence for the global destination art experience in healthcare.

Key Opportunities and Challenges for the Associate Vice President for Art Experience

Working closely with the Senior Vice President of Institutional Affairs and Chief Brand and Communications Officer, along with other senior leaders and key stakeholders, the AVP for Art Experience will address the following opportunities and challenges:

Develop a strategic vision for the preeminent art experience in healthcare

- Develop strategy and vision that aligns with MD Anderson's goals and values for a world-class art experience in internal and external spaces.
- Conduct benchmarking research to identify relevant themes, art styles, and artists that promote a healing and comforting environment for patients, visitors, and staff.
- Select and curate art pieces, both original works and reproductions, for display throughout MD Anderson, considering factors such as cultural diversity, patient demographics, and therapeutic benefits of different art forms.
- Engage with artists, galleries, and art suppliers to acquire inspiring artwork, while working collaboratively with Facilities and Clinical Operations to ensure synergistic alignment with architectural planning and design, lighting, acoustics, and other environmental interdependencies.
- Plan and coordinate the installation of artwork in designated spaces, ensuring proper placement, lighting, and security.
- Collaborate with facility management and art installers to ensure compliance with safety and infection control regulations.

Serve as the internal and external art experience leader with key stakeholders and the local Houston community

- Engage with internal and external stakeholders, patients, and their families to gather feedback on the art program and assess its impact. Key internal constituents include Philanthropy, Facilities, and Operations among others.

- Maintain open lines of communication with various departments to ensure the art collection supports the needs and preferences of different patient populations.
- Collaborate with local artists to showcase art that reflects the spirit of the Houston community and the state of Texas.

Oversee the ongoing development, marketing, and promotion of the Art Program

- Develop and implement strategies to promote the art program within MD Anderson.
- Collaborate with marketing and communications teams to create promotional materials and showcase the art program's positive impact on patient well-being.
- Organize art exhibitions, gallery tours, and educational workshops to engage patients, staff, and the local community.
- Develop and oversee the art program budget, including art acquisition costs, installation expenses, maintenance, and conservation.

Collaborate with philanthropic efforts, representing the vision for art curation

- Represent the art experience vision to existing and potential donors, including navigating conversations about desired art gifts.
- Proactively explore ways the art experience and Art Program can support philanthropic efforts and goals.

Qualifications and Characteristics (Core Competencies)

While no one person may embody all, the successful candidate will bring many of the following professional qualifications and personal qualities:

- Expertise in fine arts with the gravitas to serve as the voice and face of an art experience vision;
- Demonstrated progressive experience leading art strategy, vision and curation in healthcare, a university, museum, historical society, municipal, or similar setting;
- Strong decision-making skills and the disposition of a natural collaborator;
- Vibrant public presence and communication skills and a proven ability to engage communities and work with and represent to a wide range of stakeholders;
- A record of building and maintaining external relations and advancing an organization's profile and reputation;
- Ability to work in the ambiguity of a new role and navigate large, complex organizations to achieve results;
- Knowledge across a wide range of contemporary practices related to art curation such as architecture, interior design, the curating of interior and exterior public spaces, human-centered design, lighting and acoustics, etc.;
- Project management skills that highlight the ability to organize and prioritize numerous tasks and action steps to maintain workflow and meet deadlines;
- Creativity and innovation in engaging broad and diverse communities in ongoing conversations;

- Experience engaging with donors in relation to art collections;
- Experience creating and managing budgets.

Location

MD Anderson's central location in Houston is part of the bustling metro of the fourth-largest city in the United States, with more than 6.7 million residents. The city provides everything from world-class dining and cuisine to cutting-edge research. As one of only four U.S. cities that feature professional resident companies in theater, opera, symphony and ballet, Houston is a mecca of diverse cultural and educational experiences. The Museum District is the country's fourth largest, housing 19 distinct museums in four different walkable zones. Houston's Museum of Fine Arts houses an extensive collection containing more than 51,000 artworks dating from antiquity to the present, and the city's Museum of Natural Science is an impressive five-venue complex that houses the Burke Baker Dome Theatre, Wortham IMAX Theatre, Cockrell Butterfly Center, and four floors of natural science exhibits. Additionally, Houston is home to the Menil Collection art museum, a 30-acre neighborhood of art. Houston's 52,912 acres of park space ranks first among the nation's 10 most populous cities. The Armand Bayou Nature Center, Hermann Park, the Houston Zoo, Cypress Trails, and the Mercer Arboretum and Botanical Gardens are just some of the many serene and beautiful outdoor landmarks to explore. Houston is a city constantly on the brink of the next great thing as people of all identities and experiences flock to be a part of the global community.

Applications, Inquiries, and Nominations

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website for the search [found here](#). Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

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