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Western Pennsylvania
Conservancy



Position Guide

Vice President and Director, Fallingwater

www.fallingwater.org





POSITION: Vice President and Director, Fallingwater
REPORTS TO: President & C.E.O., Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
LOCATION: Mill Run, PA

MISSION

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Protects and restores exceptional places to provide our region with clean waters and healthy forests, wildlife and natural areas for the benefit of present and future generations. The Conservancy creates green spaces and gardens, contributing to the vitality of our cities and towns, and preserves Fallingwater, a symbol of people living in harmony with nature.

Fallingwater

Preserves Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece, conserves the site for which it was designed, and interprets them and their history for present and future generations of the world community.

In pursuing its work, Fallingwater demonstrates leadership and creativity, engages the public, and celebrates the power of design in harmony with nature. Its approach is collaborative and it meets the highest recognized standards of museum and preservation practices.

ABOUT WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY



The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (Conservancy) has conserved more than a quarter million acres in Western Pennsylvania. The Community Gardens and Greenspace program draws more than 12,000 volunteers annually to beautify communities across the state. The Conservancy has a watershed conservation program that protects and restores Western Pennsylvania's rivers and streams. The Conservancy also includes a natural heritage program that works to protect Pennsylvania's threatened and endangered species and their habitats. A membership-based organization, WPC relies on those who also care about the region as it works to conserve our natural places for generations to come.

ABOUT FALLINGWATER

Fallingwater is a house designed in 1935 by renowned American architect [Frank Lloyd Wright](#) (1867-1959). The house was designed as a private residence and weekend home for the family of Pittsburgh department store owner, [Edgar J. Kaufmann, Sr.](#) Fallingwater is one of Wright's most widely acclaimed works and best exemplifies his philosophy of organic architecture: the harmonious union of art and nature.

It is located in the mountains of southwestern Pennsylvania, also known as the Laurel Highlands, in Mill Run, Pa. in Fayette County, about 70 miles east of Pittsburgh. Wright designed Fallingwater to rise above the waterfall over which it is built. Completed with a guest house and service wing in 1939, Fallingwater was constructed of native sandstone and other materials quarried from the property. Fallingwater was built by local craftsman from Fayette County.

The [Kaufmann family](#), Edgar J. Kaufmann, Sr., Liliane S. Kaufmann, and their son, Edgar Kaufmann, jr. owned, lived in and used Fallingwater in various capacities during their lifetimes. In 1963, [Edgar Kaufmann, jr. donated and entrusted Fallingwater](#) and the surrounding 1,543 acres of land to the [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy](#).



Today, Fallingwater is open to the public as a museum and is designated as a National Historic Landmark and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Treasure. The house was also named the "best all-time work of American architecture" in a poll of members of the American Institute of Architects. Open to the public since 1964, more than five million visitors have toured and experienced Fallingwater. Travel+Leisure Magazine stated that Fallingwater is "one of the 12 landmarks that will change the way you see the world."

Fallingwater is the only major Wright work to come into the public domain with its setting original furnishings and artwork intact. In 2016, Fallingwater received over 180,000 visitors.

Fallingwater has always been a place for inspired thinking. It offers educational programs for all ages to deepen one's understanding of Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece of organic architecture.

- [Fallingwater Institute](#): Edgar Kaufmann, jr. imagined that Fallingwater could become a place where scholars, students and artists might come to find inspiration from the building and its landscape while pursuing individual or group study. Today, the Fallingwater Institute honors Kaufmann's vision by providing a stimulating setting for learning and collaborating for individuals interested in classes, workshops and residencies at Fallingwater and for scholarship across the Conservancy's areas of interest, ranging from conservation to preservation to design.
- [Teachers & Groups](#): Fallingwater welcomes student groups with teacher and parent chaperones. Field trips to Fallingwater are recommended for grades 4 and up. Fallingwater's school programs include architectural tours for students, hands-on workshops, and in-school presentations; all designed to connect

students' experiences with a world-renowned work of architecture to learning that happens in a classroom or home.

- [Lifelong Learning](#): For adults who have a thirst for knowledge, Fallingwater can help quench it. From lectures to learning a new skill, Fallingwater's programs offer immersive hands-on learning experiences.
- [Research](#): Students and scholars can obtain more information about Fallingwater for research purposes through architectural and structural drawings, information on collections and suggested readings.
- [High Meadow](#): High Meadow is Fallingwater's award-winning, newly expanded and renovated educational program building located approximately one-half mile from Fallingwater. An expansion of a 1960s split level house situated on 60 acres of land donated to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy by Mrs. Robert Kirkpatrick, High Meadow serves as home base for students of the Fallingwater Institute's residency programs in architecture, art and design.



Fallingwater is governed by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Board of Directors and overseen by an Advisory Board. It has a budget of approximately \$6.9 million with a staff of 63 FTE and 55 PTE.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Fallingwater is an international treasure. Of immediate opportunity for the incoming Vice President and Director is the work underway to designate the house and grounds as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This process has been on-going for several years and will be critical to continue and leverage as the new Vice President and Director joins the Conservancy. Also, with the addition and expansion of High Meadow and the Fallingwater Institute, education and scholarship will be an area of focus over the next several years. The opportunity to leverage the unique setting and capacity of Fallingwater to recruit thought leaders, academics and the community to engage in advanced learning about the history, significance, and future of Fallingwater and of conservation programs and issues will be a focus of the organization moving forward. Embedded in these opportunities will be the need for a new Vice President and Director to chart a successful future with an eye towards broader philanthropic support and financial growth.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Vice President & Director of Fallingwater is responsible for the overall direction of the museum's operations including preservation and maintenance of the building and site, care and management of its collections, program planning, and financial management, including budgeting, membership and fundraising, while also receiving unwavering support from the Conservancy's Finance & Administration, Information Technology,

Institutional Advancement and Human Resources departments. The Vice President and Director promotes the mission of the Conservancy with the Fallingwater Advisory Committee, major donors, members, the financial community and the public, and represents Fallingwater locally, regionally, nationally and internationally by membership and/or participation in appropriate organizations and museum/preservation affiliate groups. The Vice President and Director position also serves on the overall senior management team of the Conservancy and provides broad leadership in that respect.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

The Conservancy seeks an innovative, entrepreneurial and visionary leader for Fallingwater, who demonstrates a passion for engaging others in a lifelong learning agenda while delivering a high-quality experience that is financially sustainable through solid programs, marketing, fundraising and business practices.

A high level of experience in building and sustaining a community of national and international partnerships with other art history, architectural, historic preservation, educational and cultural stakeholders, public and private, is necessary. We seek a dynamic, energetic leader and communicator who can influence others to action, be they staff, board members, donors, elected officials, corporate executives, members, volunteers and other supporters.

The ideal candidate will show evidence of successful fundraising leadership that includes the acquisition of major gifts and grants from foundations, corporations, individuals and the public sector at the local, state and national level. Particularly helpful would be a background of launching innovative, groundbreaking programs resulting in long-term funding and stable revenue streams.

We seek a person who can demonstrate proven ability in developing sustainable financial and operating strategies within a nonprofit, business or public organization, and who has experience developing strong teams. This includes competencies in selecting and directing senior leaders, financial and program analysis, earned income and philanthropic revenue enhancement.

A leadership style that promotes creativity, accountability, resourcefulness and competence across the entire team along with a preference toward action would be highly valued. Additionally, the candidate will be trustworthy and display a high level of respect, humility, loyalty, and personal integrity.

A bachelor's degree is required. A master's degree is preferred. At least five years of successful leadership experience in a museum or comparable organization or venue is strongly preferred. Excellent presentation skills and written and spoken English is expected. Demonstrable leadership experience in public or private institutions concerned with art history, architecture, education, philanthropy, history and/or historic preservation or related professions would be valued. Previous experience working with, or serving on, a nonprofit board and knowledge of board governance is important.

To apply, please send a current resume and letter of introduction to Kittleman & Associates, LLC at <https://www.kittlemansearch.com/western-pennsylvania-conservancy/>

For more information about the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, please visit www.waterlandlife.org; or Fallingwater, please go to www.fallingwater.org.

ABOUT THE SURROUNDING AREA

[Ligonier Valley](#), located just 30 minutes from Fallingwater is recognized by Country Living Magazine as one of "The Most Charming Small Towns in America" and by The Washington Post as a "Small-Town Charmer." Steeped in history dating back to the French & Indian War at Fort Ligonier, the town hosts over 60 specialty shops, galleries, restaurants and places to stay. The scenic valley surrounding the town is home to Idlewild Park & SoakZone – voted "Best Amusement Park for Children in the World," as well as the Compass Inn Museum, Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Linn Run State Park and fantastic biking and hiking at Laurel Mountain.

Fallingwater is also an hour's drive from [Pittsburgh](#). Once a center for heavy industry, today Pittsburgh's skyline has been transformed. Riverfronts are thoughtfully developed, utilized for recreation now more than ever. Businesses look to the environment as an asset, not a challenge. And, best of all, "green" has replaced "smoky" for good. Pittsburgh's affordable standard of living, top-notch health care facilities and cultural attractions combine to make it America's "Most Livable City." Pittsburgh is a vibrant, mid-sized city that has the feel of a small town. Its approachability can be seen on the faces of its energetic, hard-working and proud people.