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GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY ALLIANCE



POSITION GUIDE

PRESIDENT

www.GarfieldConservatory.org

GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY ALLIANCE

POSITION GUIDE

POSITION:	President
REPORTS TO:	Board of Directors
LOCATION:	Chicago, Illinois

MISSION

We inspire, educate and provoke exploration through innovative programs and experiences in one of the nation's largest and finest historic conservatories.

VISION

The Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance changes lives through the power of nature.

VALUES

The Garfield Park Conservatory brings together people, plants and culture in an urban oasis like no other in the world. The following values reflect an appreciation for our unique opportunities and guide the visitor experiences we offer and the choices we make:

- Community – As a public garden in a vibrant urban setting, we host a myriad of people, attracted to different dimensions of the Conservatory. We provide a welcoming and nurturing environment to all visitors, as we seek to build “communities of purpose” at the Conservatory.
- Education – We infuse everything we do with enlightening elements to create transformational learning experiences.
- Wonder – Every visit to the Conservatory is surprising and different. We strive to provoke curiosity in every visitor through authentic, fun, and engaging experiences.
- Vitality – As an institution committed to plants and people, we are devoted to promoting human well-being and environmental responsibility. This means embracing sustainable practices and recognizing the regenerative benefits that plants, gardening, and greening have on society.
- Performance – We are accountable to our public, supporters, and partners. We are consistent, and aim for excellence and the highest quality in everything we do.

ABOUT THE GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY



The Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago, Illinois is one of the largest and most stunning conservatories in the nation. Often referred to as "landscape art under glass," the Garfield Park Conservatory occupies approximately 14 acres inside and out, and includes cold frames and propagation houses where thousands of plants are grown each year. The Conservatory

displays exotic species of palms, ferns, cacti and tropical plants in landscaped settings under glass, as well as a variety of flora showcased in multiple beautiful outdoor gardens. Garfield Park Conservatory is located just 15 minutes west of downtown Chicago and serves as the centerpiece of the three great original Westside parks (Humboldt, Garfield, and Douglas).

The Conservatory is one of the nation's botanical treasures and ranks among Chicago's most unique sites, attracting visitors from a variety of cultures, disciplines and interests. Garfield Park and its conservatory are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and, over the years, the Conservatory has been recognized as an internationally significant horticultural facility as well as a cultural asset to the surrounding community and the city of Chicago.

ABOUT THE GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY ALLIANCE



The Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance was incorporated in 1998 as a not-for-profit organization to help engage, inspire and promote learning for visitors through Alliance programs, classes and events. The Alliance brings Friends of the Parks, area schools, museums, conservation organizations and community groups into partnership with the Chicago Park District to provide programming in support of the facility and collections that are managed by the Park District. Recipient of the

National Medal for Museum and Library Science in 2013, the Alliance interprets the Conservatory's extraordinary plant collections for all Chicagoans and tourists from around the nation and beyond.

The Conservatory Alliance serves more than 200,000 people a year, including 16,000 local school children. Children and adults explore the Conservatory and learn about plants, nature and gardening through a variety of programs including school tours, educational and recreational family activities, gardening and beekeeping classes and workshops. In

addition to the Alliance's regular programming and exhibits, widely heralded special exhibits have increased the Conservatory's visibility, including the Dale Chihuly exhibit titled "Chihuly in the Park: A Garden of Glass" which attracted more than 80,000 national and international visitors.

With stunning exhibits as a backdrop, the Alliance brings exciting events to the Conservatory such as Beer Under Glass, Wine Under Glass, Fleurotica and Harvest Days, and connects these events and activities to residents throughout the Chicago region. Alliance staff members differ in their expertise, from educators and youth leaders to exhibit managers and fundraisers, but they work together to provide the public with innovative programs, compelling exhibits, and educational



opportunities year-round. The Alliance works to make the Garfield Park Conservatory a destination for all Chicagoans and tourists and a resource for our immediate community.

The Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance is a 501c3 non-profit organization and the charitable partner of the Chicago Park District which owns the Conservatory.

OPPORTUNITY

The Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance provides an exceptional opportunity to continue developing the Conservatory into a world-class institution through programming and ongoing development. Like other revered Chicago institutions, the Garfield Park Conservatory brings first-rate collections and premier exhibitions to the region. The next



President & CEO will have the opportunity to partner with corporate, civic, and political leaders to elevate the organization's profile and participation as an extraordinary cultural treasure. The next president will raise resources that will substantially impact the long-term future of this landmark organization with a trusted reputation, dedicated staff, incomparable physical beauty, and rich history.

Alliance programming includes yearlong weekend activities for children, adults, and families, as well as daily learning opportunities during the week for children of all ages. Specific opportunity exists to match a million dollar Children's Gardens grant and to increase traveling exhibits to make the Conservatory a recreational destination for frequent, recurrent visits.



The next President will be able to expand the facility's use as an educational and rental venue as well as to increase visiting and special exhibits, educational partnerships, and impact across all program areas.

The President & CEO will have the opportunity to build upon the current Board of Directors as well as upon significant civic interest for the benefit of both the organization and the community at large.

POSITION SUMMARY



The President serves not only as the Alliance's Chief Executive Officer, but also as the chief external spokesperson and liaison in advancing the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance as a world class institution. The President works closely with and is accountable to the Board in the planning, development and implementation of the vision, mission and goals of the organization. The President also

holds accountability to the Chicago Park District which owns and maintains the facility and plant collection. Ongoing visibility and collaboration with the Board, Chicago Park District, the City of Chicago, and the broader Chicago community is a key component of the position. The President expands and nurtures relationships with external stakeholders including members, donors, corporations, foundations and community partners to carry out the mission and potential of the Conservatory Alliance. The President is responsible for developing, presenting and managing the annual operating budget; hiring, developing and evaluating qualified staff; cultivating and soliciting gifts and grants; and overseeing program development and implementation to ensure the highest quality of content and delivery.

Priorities for the next President will include developing individual, foundation and corporate partnerships for the betterment of the institution, expansion of programs and exhibits, and board development.



CANDIDATE PROFILE

The Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance seeks an accomplished leader who demonstrates a keen understanding of and passion for the organization's unique mission. The successful candidate will have a keen interest in relationship building with civic and cultural leaders, and also have a strong inclination towards program and community development. The ideal candidate will have a background that includes financial and staff management combined with a strong understanding of philanthropy and proven success in raising significant funds from individuals, foundations, corporations, and public entities on behalf of mission and organization.

Experience in building broad partnerships that extend the brand and purpose of an organization similar to the Conservatory would be very beneficial. This would include evidence of innovation and collaboration with other institutions and enterprises in developing programs and exhibits that increase the impact and reach of the organization.

The successful candidate will exhibit exceptional interpersonal skills to effectively interact with Board, staff, local citizens, public garden advocates and policy leaders, governmental officials and donors. The President must be able to articulate the mission of the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance to a variety of constituents and establish effective and efficient internal communication. This individual must be confident, bright, and have the appropriate skills and presence to work in an effective, collegial and collaborative manner across the organization.

The ideal candidate will be a strong and effective leader, with an inclusive, team-oriented management style. The primary profile characteristics sought are successful leadership; proven fundraising skills; the ability to inspire and motivate staff and constituents; the ability and interest to cultivate relationships with key donors, board members, community and government leaders; relevant management experience; and the ability to be a visionary who will plan and achieve meaningful growth for the Conservatory Alliance, while maintaining a strong and sustainable foundation.

Candidates with executive level achievement in the fields of fund development, education, community development, advocacy, policy, business, law and/or related fields are encouraged to apply. Professional or personal connection to gardens, plants and living things is important, as is a sense of wonder. Nonprofit management experience is desired. Proven experience and success in fundraising is highly desired.

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university is required; an advanced degree is highly desirable. Leadership and/or participation in regional or national professional or trade associations that relate to the mission of the Conservancy would be a plus.

To apply, please submit a current resume and letter of introduction to Kittleman & Associates, LLC at <https://www.kittlemansearch.com/garfield-park-conservatory-alliance/>

For more information about the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, visit www.garfieldconservatory.org.

