



ORGANIZATION: **Moore Farms Botanical Garden Foundation**

POSITION: **Executive Director**

REPORTS TO: **Board of Directors**

LOCATION: **Lake City, South Carolina**

Moore Farms Botanical Garden Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2002 by South Carolina native and philanthropist, Ms. Darla Moore, whose passion was to transform her family's ancestral croplands into a place of beauty and horticultural excellence as well as a source of pride for the people of her hometown, Lake City.

As her Garden evolved, so did Ms. Moore's vision for the future of the property. She envisioned the Garden as a place for horticultural research, land conservation and education and as a place of enjoyment for visitors. Moreover, she determined that the Garden would become a gift to the ages to enrich the lives of others in perpetuity.

About the Garden

Today, a visitor to Moore Farms Botanical Garden will find a garden that is mature beyond its years and spectacular in its variation of design features and plant species. This diverse wonderland now thrives in soil that was once carpeted with row crops. Within the 500 acres, about 60 acres are cultivated as gardens with the balance remaining in row crops and timber production. A significant portion of the original property was planted in loblolly pine for timber production. Over the years, that species has been replaced by long leaf pines, and through a habitat stewardship program recently initiated, land management practices demonstrate the highest standards in the industry.

The iconic Fire Tower Center, a green building with modern architecture and a traditional Southern feel, provides a multi-purpose facility as a visitor's center, education venue and large meeting space for businesses, civic groups and garden clubs. With this Center, the Education Program has grown rapidly over

the past few years and now reaches 2,500 children and young adults who attend public schools in the area.

In 2015, the construction of a dozen green roof garden palettes was completed which enables research staff to experiment with trials of plant diversity, design aesthetics and commercial application in the warmer zones of the southeast. In addition, the uniquely-designed maintenance building is a green roof demonstration in itself. Their Internship Program draws interest from around the country and offers qualified students (currently 4) both spring and year-round opportunities in horticulture, greenhouse, GIS and education.

The Garden has a current operating budget of \$2.9 million not including capital expenditures. Revenue for the Garden comes almost entirely from the Moore Farms Botanical Garden Foundation. In 2016, the Garden has welcomed over 8,500 guests.

About Lake City

In many ways, the evolution of the Garden has mirrored the evolution of Lake City, both having benefitted from Ms. Moore's generosity and active participation. At one time known as the "Bean Capital of the World", Lake City was the hub for farmers across the South to get their crops to market. Now, the Bean Market downtown is listed on the National Register and serves as the hub for civic center activities, historic buildings and events, including the popular 7-day Artsfields festival. The Garden provides landscaping and horticultural services for dozens of properties Downtown, demonstrating the unique partnership that exists between the City and the Garden.

This year, Lake City adopted a forward-thinking strategic master plan for center city development. This includes the new Florence-Darlington Technical College Downtown Campus which will draw 500-800 students in culinary, hospitality and related degree-oriented tracks. Other Downtown plan components include 70 units of single-family residences and townhomes; 110,000 square feet of additional ground-floor retail space; a new performing arts center; improvements on all the Downtown streets including gardens, park areas and other green amenities; and major infrastructure improvements related to traffic patterns, parking and shopping. Implementation of the plan is already underway.

The Opportunity

As the Garden evolved in its early development, it reflected the integrity of Ms. Moore's design idea of keeping intact the legacy of the property balanced by the opportunity to create a horticultural masterpiece. With that theme serving as the foundation for development, the Garden is now poised to craft its first-ever strategic plan. The plan will need to address all aspects of the Garden including horticulture, research, education, land conservation, visitor experience,

facilities, equipment, personnel and the community it serves over the next five years. As a "living plan", it is expected that the Executive Director will continue to facilitate new ideas, based on an evolving master site plan, and to adjust priorities as opportunities present themselves. A comprehensive approach to plan development, one that provides for broad input and participation from a wide variety of stakeholders in the region, is expected.

The implementation of the Lake City master plan offers many opportunities to reach a common goal: to create a vibrant, destination-oriented experience for visitors and community residents alike. Through the Technical College, opportunities for the Garden to collaborate on new special projects and programs abound. The expansion of tourism through the performing arts center, historic buildings and the numerous civic events can better connect people with the Garden as renewed interest in the area is developed. With the expected population growth will come new opportunities to serve children and families in ways that will lift the quality of life for all to new levels.

Candidate Profile

We seek an accomplished leader with a proven ability to inspire others in reaching unprecedented levels of organizational excellence and quality. This kind of leadership requires clear vision, acute planning skills and the ability to execute plans through collaboration and highly-participatory teamwork.

The ideal candidate would bring a servant leadership approach characterized by compassion for people, respect for the past and vision for the future. This person must demonstrate an ability to develop, delegate and empower talented staff and carry forward major projects and programs through highly collaborative, sleeves-rolled-up teamwork style. We seek a leader who is an exceptional relationship builder whose passion is evident by his or her ability to clearly and enthusiastically articulate the Garden's vision to stakeholders, visitors and the community at large.

A passion for the mission of the Garden must be evident as well as knowledge of best practices in the management of nonprofit organizations. Of critical importance is the candidate's ability to transform ideas into specific, goal-driven project outcomes. Solid, demonstrated skills in operations and business management are expected. Strategic decision making in project prioritization, from basic infrastructure improvements to large-scale programmatic and capital initiatives, is essential to successfully carrying out the job.

A graduate degree from an accredited college or university is required. Evidence of continuing professional education and/or leadership in regional and national professional associations is highly desired.

Applications and nominations are being received by Kittleman & Associates, LLC. To apply, please visit <http://www.kittlemansearch.com/moore-farms-botanical-garden-foundation/>). For more information about Moore Farms Botanical Garden, please visit <http://moorefarmsbg.org/>