

ARTS TOGETHER
Raleigh, North Carolina
Executive Director Position Profile
June 8, 2010

Summary

Arts Together (AT) is seeking a creative, enthusiastic professional to build on its 27-year history as Wake County's only nonprofit multi-arts school.

Founded in 1983 by a small group of dedicated performers, educators and parents, Arts Together has grown into one of the area's most respected educational resources, and has impacted the lives of hundreds of children and families. Originally created as a school for dance and movement, Arts Together today connects all the arts and teaches the different skills required of each. Arts Together retains its founders' vision for dance and has the distinction of nurturing the area's only modern dance program. The dance curriculum is designed for preschoolers through adults and dance professionals, and includes both modern and ballet.

Multi-arts classes and camps operate throughout the year. They range from painting, collage, drama and drawing, to movement classes such as jazz, hip hop, yoga and Pilates. Arts Together houses a Preschool that focuses on kindergarten readiness through the arts. A faculty of experienced arts educators offers progressive classes to both children and adults, developing technical skill along with creative expression. At the same time, teachers encourage students to explore and experiment in multiple art forms.

Arts Together is located on the edge of downtown Raleigh, in the Historic Tucker Carriage House, a 19th century landmark owned by the Raleigh Housing Authority. Twenty years ago, Arts Together was the driving force behind a public-private coalition that ensured restoration of the Carriage House, and thus saved an irreplaceable treasure for North Carolina's capital city.

Arts Together has a history of educational quality, fiscal stability and community support. For more details on its mission, classes, faculty and community outreach, visit www.artstogether.org.

Governance, Staffing and Finances

Arts Together is governed by an active 10-member board of directors made up of community leaders who have a passion for education through the arts. Its staff includes a core

of six members who are responsible for programming, financial management, public relations and resource development, as well as a faculty of thirty full- and part-time instructors.

The operating budget for fiscal year 2010 is approximately \$600,000. Chief sources of revenue include tuition and fees, as well as support from such major institutions as the City of Raleigh Arts Commission and United Arts of Raleigh and Wake County. In addition, Arts Together receives the support of individual donors, as well as that of local corporate and foundation sponsors.

Leadership Opportunity

Working with the board of directors, the Executive Director will have overall responsibility for Arts Together's educational mission, its day-to-day operations and its projected growth. He or she will be the School's chief advocate, spokesperson and representative in all matters educational, artistic, financial and administrative.

Following an appropriate transition period, the new Executive Director will be expected to work with both the board and current staff to ensure that Arts Together takes advantage of all opportunities for:

- Increased enrollment (especially among groups that have been traditionally under-represented in its student population),
- Higher visibility among corporate, foundation and political constituencies,
- Stronger, mutually-beneficial partnerships with other community arts organizations, and,
- Increased philanthropic giving.

Key Responsibilities

- **Educational Mission.** Arts Together is, first and foremost, a school for the arts. Thus, the Executive Director will continually work with the board, faculty and parents to plan, implement and monitor policies and curricula that fulfill the school's mission of enriching students' lives through the arts. Three key focus areas are Preschool, dance and art.
- **Preschool.** In addition to its afternoon and evening classes, Arts Together's Preschool is a major part of its student base and its revenue stream. The Preschool has won praise and renown throughout Wake County for its unique approach to preparing children for kindergarten through emphasis on the arts. "Graduates" of the Preschool frequently return to Arts Together for classes as they grow older. The Executive Director will work with the Pre-School director and faculty to ensure that its curriculum is always

innovative, and that it continues to attract and enrich students from all parts of Wake County.

- **Resource Development.** The Executive Director will ensure adequate resources through an appropriate combination of growth in tuition revenue, corporate sponsorships, government and foundation grants, and individual philanthropic giving.
- **Community Relationships and Partnerships.** The Executive Director will build and nurture strong relationships with business and policy leaders, as well as with other arts organizations, in order to raise public awareness of Arts Together and to encourage greater community investment.
- **Growth and Diversity of Enrollment.** The Executive Director will ensure that enrollment at all levels – pre-school through adult classes – grows at a rate that is consistent with the faculty’s ability to serve each student effectively, and with the capacity of the Tucker Carriage House and other available venues to properly accommodate every student. He or she will also strive to develop a student population that reflects the demographics of Arts Together’s entire service area (Raleigh and Wake County).
- **Standards of Quality.** Working with the board and faculty, the Executive Director will continuously ensure that all classes and other programming offered by Arts Together meet the highest standards of artistic and educational quality, and adhere to the best practices of leading arts schools throughout the country.
- **Operations and Finances.** For both its educational programming and administrative operations, the Executive Director will develop and implement systems, policies and procedures that ensure cost-effective management, accurate budgeting, transparent fiscal oversight and financial accounting practices.
- **Facility Management.** The Tucker Carriage House is a 19th century landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. At the same time, it is a 21st century institution that must accommodate hundreds of students and parents each year. Thus, the Executive Director must balance the historic nature of the building with the mission of Arts Together and its potential needs for expanded space, additional venues, up-to-date technology and convenience for students and their families.

Experience and Attributes

The ideal candidate for the position of Executive Director should be a person who:

- Has a passion for arts education and the role the arts play in the life and health of a community;
- Is a mature leader committed to the educational mission of Arts Together;
- Demonstrates an ability to think strategically and creatively, and lead with confidence in addressing organizational challenges;
- Has either direct experience as an educator, or has a deep understanding of the challenges faced by the faculty of a multi-arts school;
- Demonstrates the sound judgment, administrative skill and financial acumen necessary to manage day-to-day operations and direct a professional staff;
- Can work effectively in partnership with a board of directors;
- Can work collaboratively with faculty, parents and other representatives of the community in order to achieve Arts Together's long-term goals;
- Is an inspiring communicator who can articulate the mission and aspirations of Arts Together to its varied constituency groups (parents, staff, supporters, business and government officials);
- Has the knowledge of, and experience in marketing that will allow him or her to enhance programming, attract students and increase financial support.

Compensation

The Executive Director's salary and overall compensation will be commensurate with the experience and background of the successful applicant. Arts Together offers an excellent benefits package.

Application Process

To apply, send cover letter and resume to:

Arts Together Transition Committee
c/o Armstrong McGuire & Associates, LLC
P.O. Box 6485
Raleigh, NC 27628

- or -

artstogether@amapag.com

Review of candidates will begin in June, 2010, and continue until the position is filled.