



Position Profile: Chief Executive Officer

Jazz Arts Group of Columbus

Introduction to Jazz Arts Group of Columbus

The Jazz Arts Group of Columbus (JAG) is America's premier not-for-profit arts organization dedicated to producing, performing, and promoting jazz. Founded in 1973, JAG's mission is to advance and celebrate the art of jazz through performance and education. The dedicated board, staff, and musicians of JAG believe in the power of music to transform lives.

Audiences across the city of Columbus treasure the jazz experiences brought to them by JAG. From the Jazz at the Southern series featuring the Columbus Jazz Orchestra—considered one of the world's finest jazz orchestras—to the JazZoo series held at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, JAG performances are an essential part of Columbus' music scene. And JAG is committed to



offering lifelong-learning opportunities for individuals of all ages, interests, backgrounds, and abilities. The Columbus Youth Jazz program gives young musicians incredible opportunities to learn and perform; other programs reach pre-kindergarten children, school-age children, and adults.

Jazz Arts Group's staff of 15 reaches thousands of people annually with high-impact education and engagement programs. The Columbus Jazz Orchestra, under the leadership of acclaimed Artistic Director Byron Stripling, delights audiences at 20+ concerts each year. With an operating budget of just under two million dollars, JAG is a national leader in elevating the art of jazz and inspiring the next generation of musicians and supporters.

Opportunity

Jazz Arts Group of Columbus seeks an experienced and strategic leader to drive the organization's continued excellence in jazz performance and education. The incoming Chief Executive Officer will partner with a committed board to shape the vision and strategy to guide the organization into its sixth decade. Together, they will increase the diversity of audiences engaged by the organization and expand community support for and awareness of this world-class institution.

As the leader of a staff with deep knowledge of and passion for the art of jazz, the new Chief Executive Officer will drive the vision to increase the organization's impact and support the team in executing high-quality performances and educational programs. The incoming leader will bring deep management experience and a commitment to working collaboratively to maintain a culture of excellence and accountability among the staff.



In addition, they will combine their commitment to the mission of the organization, with their understanding of nonprofit operations, community relations, finance, and management to maintain the organization's position as one of our community's leading arts organizations. They will serve as the lead spokesperson for the organization, partnering with the board and leadership team to connect with individuals and institutions to generate support for the organization.



The next CEO will assume leadership at a pivotal time in the organization's history as JAG celebrates five decades of excellence in performance and three decades in education. They will build on the organization's foundational programs and strong financial position to chart the course for the next 50 years of impact connecting diverse audiences with the joy and transformational potential of jazz performance and education.

Key Position Functions

The Chief Executive Officer provides strategic leadership and day-to-day management of Jazz Arts Group, reporting to the organization's Board of Directors. The CEO will:

- Provide vision and articulate a strategy for Jazz Arts Group's future; strengthen the organization's position as a leader in the Columbus arts community and in the national jazz performance and education community.
- Provide strong leadership to staff; understand and implement best practices of nonprofit board governance.
- Work directly with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra Artistic Director on artistic matters related to the CJO.
- Elevate the organization's visibility in the region and educate the community about the organization's mission and impact.
- Demonstrate a passion for and knowledge of the organization's mission.
- Lead Jazz Arts Group with a commitment to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion across all facets of the organization.

Leadership and Management: Maintains efficient administrative operations; formulates operational and personnel policies and procedures; recruits, selects, orients, and evaluates performance for direct reporting staff.

Governance: Establishes policy with Board of Directors, identifying short- and long-term issues; provides regular updates to the Board of Directors and engages them in decision making as appropriate; attends all meetings of the Board as well as the Executive and Finance Committees; consults with the Governance Committee, helping to identify and recruit qualified candidates for Board membership from diverse backgrounds and perspectives; assists with new member orientation.



Vision and Strategy: Develops long-range and broad-based plans and goals, working closely with JAG Directors, Board, Committees, and staff to create and implement strategic plans; identifies pathways to broaden the diversity of audiences engaged by the organization.

Financial Management: Oversees the organization's budget and finances; achieves financial objectives through the development and monitoring of the yearly budget.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Implement a diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy across all facets of the organization; model and actively support the building of a strong inclusive culture that ensures all team members feel a sense of belonging; lead efforts, in partnership with staff and Board of Directors, to ensure organizational leadership reflects the diversity of audiences engaged by the organization and the historical origins of jazz; expand the reach of the JAG programs and performances to reach more diverse audiences.

Resource Development: Leads development staff and Board in fundraising activities, including annual fund campaign, corporate sponsorships, special events, endowment campaigns, and planned-giving programs; identifies and cultivates donors; supervises the preparation of grants, supporting materials, and reports for national, state, and local government agencies and foundations in consultation with JAG development staff and Board of Directors; cultivates and maintains relationships with key funding agencies, sponsors, and donors.

Community Relations: Promotes positive organizational image as the chief spokesperson for JAG; cultivates relationships with governmental officials and organizations at the local, regional, and national level; supports the Director of Communications in developing marketing and branding initiatives.

Programmatic and Artistic Leadership: Serves as executive and artistic administrator for Jazz at the Lincoln; consults with Jazz Academy directors to define program direction and opportunities; sustains and builds positive labor relations; negotiates labor agreements with Local 1-3 of the American Federations of Musicians in consultation with the CJO Orchestra Manager and JAG Board of Directors; works closely with CJO Artistic Director on programming and associated budget issues; develops plans and proposals and shares with the Board.

Qualifications

Required Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in relevant field
- 5 or more years' experience leading cross-functional teams
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Demonstrated understanding of marketing and development principles

Desired Qualifications

- Leadership experience in a performing arts or membership-based organization
- Working knowledge of the history and unique qualities of jazz



Competencies and Attributes for Success in the Position

- Strategic mindset
- Plans and aligns
- Drives vision and purpose
- Ensures accountability
- Builds effective teams
- Communicates effectively
- Instills trust
- Action oriented
- Interpersonal savvy
- Builds networks
- Financial acumen
- Cultivates innovation
- Manages conflict

Application Process

Benefactor Group is pleased to be assisting Jazz Arts Group of Columbus with this executive search. Applications will be reviewed as they are received. All applications are considered highly confidential. To be considered for this position, please send a cover letter and resume to:

Benefactor Group Recruitment Team

HR@benefactorgroup.com

<http://www.benefactorgroup.com>

Please do not contact JAG staff or Board with questions or interest in the role. All inquiries about the position should be directed to Benefactor Group.

To learn more about JAG, please visit <https://www.jazzartsgroup.org/>

About Columbus, Ohio

With all the culture and amenities of a big city, Columbus remains a friendly, convenient, and affordable place to live. In addition, the city received a perfect score from the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index in 2022.

One of the fastest-growing cities in the United States, Columbus is positioned for incredible economic growth. Its traditional base is strong: it is the state capital, home of the country's third-largest public university, and headquarters for retail, banking, and insurance giants. Its tech and startup growth is also impressive, with the announcement of two new Intel chip manufacturing plants in the region just a recent example. The Wexner Medical Center at The Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital, both international leaders in research, make Columbus an emerging center for world-class healthcare.

Columbus is also a city that embraces entertainment. Loyal audiences attend theater and music events, seek out art exhibitions across the city, and follow collegiate and professional sports. Music and arts festivals attract locals and visitors. A growing foodie scene includes fusion offerings from the city's diverse immigrant communities along with creative breweries, distilleries, and cafes.

Home to 1.3 million people with a median age of 24, Columbus is the 14th largest city in the country and the second fastest-growing large city in the Midwest. Columbus' affordability index has sustained its



growth. Ranked ninth most affordable city in the United States in 2022, Columbus is becoming an increasingly attractive place to live and work. The downtown area is in the midst of a building boom, the product of the city's focus on revitalizing its core.

Of all the places to build a career, you will find Columbus is second to none. With its world-class institutions, rich history—including a history of providing jazz music to the world from its vibrant African American neighborhoods in the 1930s and 1940s—booming economy, and affordable lifestyle, the city is an emerging center for innovation. Columbus blends modernity, history, and opportunity seamlessly.