

Executive Director

Marc Sanders Foundation

Virtual/Flexible Location

About the Marc Sanders Foundation

History

The Marc Sanders Foundation (MSF) was founded as an endowed entity for the promotion of traditional metaphysics and philosophy of religion. MSF began awarding annual prizes to young scholars in each field of study and expanded to include eight additional prizes, including a public philosophy prize aimed at engaging a broader audience. In partnership with leading organizations and institutions, lecture series and conferences are now also part of MSF's academic programming. This growing portfolio of outreach and diversity programs engages women, minorities, and students from primary through graduate school. MSF currently identifies, funds, and builds programs that increase the visibility and inclusiveness of philosophy for today's students in pursuit of cultivating the next generation of leaders.

Vision

We are raising our sights yet again. Building upon our academic origins, MSF seeks to deepen understanding through innovation in philosophy for a more informed world. In this increasingly uncertain and complex time, with often casual attitudes toward objective facts, we face an intellectual crisis where people frequently don't know what truth is or how to find it.

For more information on the Marc Sanders Foundation, please visit their website here: <http://www.marcsandersfoundation.org/>

The Opportunity

The Marc Sanders Foundation's ambitious growth and expansion plans require new leadership. They will steer MSF into this next phase of catalyzing a broader and more public-facing role for philosophy. The Foundation seeks an experienced and visionary candidate to guide MSF through its next evolutionary chapter. The ideal candidate will be a creative thinker with a demonstrated track record in fundraising, communications, and organizational management. They will be excited to generate new funding and private/public sector relationships, likely creating and leading a coalition of like-minded philosophy leaders who will help define the optimal role for philosophy in today's world. Understanding and respecting the importance of philosophy's academic and historic underpinnings while articulating and implementing an expanded contribution are required capabilities.

Reporting to the Board of Trustees, core job responsibilities include strategic plan development and implementation, program partner cultivation and oversight, Board recruitment and management, internal operations, and acting as the chief spokesperson for MSF. The Executive Director will be committed to achieving MSF's mission and

expanded strategy through their leadership and relationship management skills. This is an extraordinary opportunity for an innovative candidate looking for a unique opportunity to make a meaningful and lasting contribution to society.

The new Executive Director will oversee the conversion of MSF from a Private Foundation to a public charity. Therefore, the ideal candidate will be highly entrepreneurial and will develop and execute a plan to diversify funding streams to the Foundation. The Executive Director will need to raise in the range of \$100,000-200,000 each year, in addition to securing a grant that is in process with a private foundation.

Desired Skills and Qualities

- Demonstrated leadership track record managing peers, staff, Board members, academic contributors, and vendors
- External communication skills including developing and delivering development presentations both orally and in writing; Representing MSF in media and at industry convenings
- Budget development and management ability
- Committee management for prizes including promotion and application solicitation, review, and announcement
- Partner development and programmatic implementation, management, evaluation, and growth
- Experience developing a development plan and the requisite funding relationships needed to support the strategic programmatic goals
- Action and outcomes-orientation
- Ability to work effectively and collaboratively with diverse groups and organizations
- Passion, self-direction, mission-driven

Candidate Profile

The ideal candidate will have the following personal attributes and professional competencies:

Strategic Leadership and Vision

The Executive Director will translate ideas into action, be willing to take risks, and offer creative ideas to adapt, strengthen, and diversify partnerships with effective planning and measurable results. This strategic visionary will work with the Board to articulate a clear vision and purpose for the Foundation that seizes new opportunities for impact. The Executive Director will have the ability to assess the Foundation's current business model and develop innovative strategies to grow and diversify its revenue streams to achieve long-term sustainability. Experienced in the design and execution of organizational strategy, this individual will set short- and long-term organizational priorities that align to MSF's mission. The Executive Director will have proven and successful experience in personnel and budget management and external relations.

Fundraising Expertise

The Executive Director will bring to the role a measurable track record of success in securing philanthropic gifts from major donors and foundations and will have a genuine enthusiasm for development. This charismatic fundraiser will excel at developing, growing, and cultivating relationships that result in increased revenue generation and will be able to meet targeted annual fundraising goals. The Executive Director will be a versatile spokesperson and savvy networker, effective in articulating MSF's value and in soliciting support from foundations, corporations, and individual donors.

Infrastructure Development and Business Acumen

The Executive Director must be comfortable working in and energized to lead a nimble, high impact nonprofit organization. To be successful, the Executive Director must be entrepreneurial and help develop not only external partnerships, but also infrastructure related to staffing and recruitment and the development of policies and procedures. Moreover, this leader will ensure fiduciary responsibility and accountability and implement best practices in nonprofit and financial management, including leading a team remotely.

Communication and Collaboration

The Executive Director will have the capability to serve as MSF's primary ambassador, a passionate and credible advocate for the Foundation's mission with the ability to bring philosophy into the public domain. This leader will bring a creative and innovative approach to external relations and the branding of MSF's value proposition. The Executive Director will have high emotional intelligence in order to work with the Board, staff, partners, and other organizations creatively and collaboratively on both existing and new initiatives. This leader must be an excellent listener and seek to include all stakeholders, including grantees, the Board of trustees, staff, Board of advisors, partners, community leaders, and funders.

Board Relations

This individual will work as a thought partner and consultatively with the Board regarding the direction of the organization, operating policies, and fundraising initiatives. This Executive Director will develop a plan and strategy to identify and recruit new Board members in addition to ensuring a give/get policy. This individual will also help the Board build their governance and capacity.

Passion for the Mission and Vision

The Executive Director will be genuinely committed to MSF's mission of leveraging philosophy to help the world approach larger personal and societal issues with the thoughtfulness, care, and rigor needed to drive understanding and change. They will have a grounding in and affinity for philosophy, either through their education or experience, that will allow them to be credible and effective in working with world class philosophers, academics, nonprofit and corporate leaders. They will be excited to lead the Foundation forward to greatly expand their impact by dramatically multiplying the scope, impact, and appreciation of philosophy – its tools, the insights it offers, and the significance of the questions it addresses. This leader will be committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to reaching out specifically to underserved communities to

promote philosophy as a tool for critical thinking skills in a society where those skills are more relevant today than ever.

Compensation & Benefits

Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience.

Contact

Koya Partners, the executive search firm that specializes in mission-driven search, has been exclusively retained for this engagement. Michelle Bonoan and Medelene Beasley of Koya Partners have been exclusively retained for this search. To express interest in this role, please submit your materials here (<https://talent-profile.diversifiedsearchgroup.com/search/v2/18291>), or email Michelle and Medelene directly at mbonoan@koyapartners.com and mbeasley@koyapartners.com. All inquiries and discussions will be considered strictly confidential.

Koya Partners is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to individuals living with disabilities. If you are a qualified individual living with a disability and need assistance expressing interest online, please email NonprofitSearchOps@divsearch.com. If you are selected for an interview, you will receive additional information regarding how to request an accommodation for the interview process.

Marc Sanders Foundation is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages applications from people of color, persons with disabilities, women, and LGBTQ+ applicants.

About Koya Partners

Koya Partners, a part of Diversified Search Group, is a leading executive search and strategic advising firm dedicated to connecting exceptionally talented people with mission-driven clients. Our founding philosophy—The Right Person in the Right Place Can Change the World—guides our work as we partner with nonprofits & NGOs, institutions of higher education, responsible businesses, and social enterprises in local communities and around the world.

For more information about Koya Partners, visit www.koyapartners.com.