

GENOVESE VANDERHOOF & ASSOCIATES
Cultural Management Consultants

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

LYRIC OPERA OF KANSAS CITY
Kansas City, Missouri
General Director

Lyric Opera of Kansas City invites applications for the position of General Director.

The Organization

Lyric Opera of Kansas City (LOKC) is celebrating its 54th season, having produced 98 different operas, including three world premieres, 29 American works, and five recordings. Founded in 1957 by conductor Russell Patterson and J. Morton Walker, the company's market reach includes the Kansas City area, as well as a five-state region. It is proud of its innovative educational programs for both young people and adults.

For many years the company produced operas in English translation only. In 1998 upon Maestro Patterson's retirement, Evan Luskin assumed the position of general director and Ward Holmquist the post of artistic director and the practice of performing in the original language with English supertitles was instituted.

In October of 2011 the Lyric Opera of Kansas City enters a new phase of its history with the opening of the 1,800 seat Muriel Kauffman Theater at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts (www.kaufmancenter.org), destined to be one of the finest performing arts facilities in the country. The theater includes seatback translated titles, using the Met Titles system.

In addition the LOKC has recently purchased a large former manufacturing building (plus an adjacent lot) in the East Crossroads neighborhood of Kansas City, five minutes from the Kauffman Center. The large building is being renovated into a Production Arts Building which will shortly be the location for all scenic design, construction, painting, costume, wigs, makeup, and rehearsal activities, as well as most education programs for young people. Its renovation will be completed in September 2011.

The adjacent lot is the site for a new storage and administrative/office building and will be under construction this fall (scheduled for completion in the spring of 2012). Together the two buildings plus adjacent landscaping, parking, and walkways will constitute the Lyric Opera Center campus, which will be among the finest facilities of its kind in North America.

Today LOKC has an annual budget of approximately \$5.1 million (Level II at OPERA America) and an endowment of over \$6 million. It has no debt other than a recent financing to cover the cost of the Lyric Opera Center renovation and construction, which is being covered through an on-going capital campaign. Its staff component is 22, plus some telemarketing specialists.

The Company's 2011/12 season will comprise TURANDOT, COSI FAN TUTTE, NIXON IN CHINA, and THE BARBER OF SEVILLE, along with the world premiere of a new family opera, THE GIVER. Current General Director Evan Luskin will retire on June 30th, 2012 after twenty-five years with the company.

The Position:

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the General Director will provide strong, creative managerial direction to guide the Company's future development, and achieve its goals for artistic excellence, financial stability, and community engagement.

We seek a highly motivated individual with a deep knowledge of opera production and repertoire, excellent organizational skills, superb written and oral communications skills, as well as experience in responsible fiscal stewardship. A strong track record in fund-raising is essential.

Working closely with Artistic Director Ward Holmquist, the General Director will have experience in strategic planning, staff/board development, a track record in seeking earned and contributed revenues (including subscriptions, corporate sponsorship, grants, individual major gifts, endowment building, and special events).

The General Director is expected to maintain a profile as a leader in the arts community in Kansas City and establish effective working relationships with artists, board members, community leaders, administrative and artistic staff, foundations, artists managers, the media, corporate and individual donors, the national opera community, and the audience. A good contact network throughout the opera industry is vital. The General Director is expected to reside in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

The City:

With a metro area of 2.1 million, Kansas City lies more or less in the geographic center of the United States. Its downtown has been undergoing major redevelopment with new condos, offices, and the funky Power and Light District. The new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is part of the renewal and expansion of this growing city.

The city is well known for its contribution to jazz and the blues, as well as to cuisine (Kansas City-style barbecue). Its vibrant arts organizations include the Kansas City Ballet, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the Kansas City Repertory Theatre, and the Kansas City Symphony, among many others.

Candidate Profile:

The ideal candidate will have senior management experience in the opera/cultural field and have the ability to work cooperatively with a volunteer Board of Directors, the Lyric Opera of Kansas City's Artistic Director, a professional management team, and several key volunteer auxiliary organizations. All employees of the Lyric Opera report directly or indirectly to this position.

Other necessary skills include the successful recruitment and supervision of staff, experience in the development and management of budgets, fund-raising experience, a knowledge of marketing, artistic operations, and educational programming, and a good grasp of strategic problem solving.

Training in opera/ music and/or arts management is desirable.

Salary commensurate with experience.

How to Apply:

Please send resume and cover letter with salary requirements and a list of references by **Friday, October 21, 2011** to:

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