

Chief Executive Officer
Auditorium Theatre
Chicago, Illinois

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE® EST. 1889

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ABOUT THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE

The Auditorium Theatre is committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community and educational programming to Chicago and to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark Auditorium Theatre.

The Auditorium Theatre's vision statement is that the Auditorium is **the Theatre for the People** because it aims to make the arts accessible to all, by bringing people from all across the city together to celebrate the performing arts and continuing to present and produce programming that reflects the rich diversity of the great city of Chicago.

History & Performances

Designed by Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler and completed in 1889, the Auditorium Theatre was acclaimed as one of the most beautiful and functional theatres in the world. A renovated, national historic landmark, the Theater's architectural integrity and perfect acoustics are internationally recognized. The Theater's 2019-2020 calendar features performances by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Ensemble Espanol, The Bolshoi Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet, and the Trinity Irish Dance Company, in addition to a variety of concerts, musicals, speakers and other dance performances.

For 129 years, the Auditorium Theatre has evolved, each decade ushering in a new challenge and a new voice. From the operatic glory of the theater's inception to the rock-and-roll concerts of the 1960's and 70's, from a setting for the world's most legendary musicals to the greatest ballets, the Auditorium Theatre's programming has adapted and grown, but has always remained dedicated to providing the highest quality of artistic experiences while preserving the storied principles upon which it was founded.

The Auditorium Theatre is housed in the historic Auditorium Building, located in Chicago's dynamic South Loop at the Northwest corner of South Michigan Avenue and Ida B. Wells Drive (formerly known as Congress Parkway), which has been the home of Roosevelt University since 1946. Founded one year earlier by faculty, students, and staff who were dedicated to fundamental access to education, to excellence in teaching, and to social justice issues, Roosevelt University is a private, independent, metropolitan university serving a complex urban/suburban community.

Roosevelt University is the Theater's sole member as a related organization. The CEO and staff of the Theatre are employees of Roosevelt University and are part of the University's payroll and benefit plans. The CEO reports to the President of the University and is a member of the University's Executive Council. As such s/he will attend University Board meetings.

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Former Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt and William McKinley gave speeches where, years later, incandescent musicians such as Jimi Hendrix, The Doors, Aretha Franklin, and Elton John performed. Stevie Wonder and Ray Charles captivated audiences in the same space where Les Miserables and Phantom of the Opera once played to sold-out crowds.

Finally, the Auditorium Theatre has hosted sell-out events with Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Hillary Clinton, where lines of excited fans wrapped around the building; welcomed concerts with packed houses to see David Byrne and Neil Young; and featured a conversation with film makers Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, as they introduced snippets from their Documentary The Vietnam War, before it was released on PBS. Whether Frank Sinatra or Itzhak Perlman, The Beach Boys or Booker T. Washington, the Auditorium Theatre is proud of all those who have graced the stage.

The Auditorium Theatre Today

Today, the programming at the Auditorium Theatre has come full-circle. While the organization continues to provide unparalleled ballet performances such as American Ballet Theatre and the Royal Ballet, it is ever mindful of the diversity and complexity of the landscape that surrounds it. The Auditorium Theater's current repertoire embraces the diversity and multiculturalism of its audiences with performances that include Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Too Hot To Handel, and Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre.

The Future of the Auditorium Theatre

The exciting challenge of this opportunity is to lead and inspire the Auditorium Theatre to attain its next level of excellence by setting and articulating a vision and strategy for future impact. The Auditorium Theatre is on the threshold of a renaissance and with the right leadership, it will be positioned to capture more and more of the Chicago performing arts market.

To learn more about the Auditorium Theatre, please visit its website: www.auditoriumtheatre.org.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The next CEO of the Auditorium Theatre will provide strategic, entrepreneurial and innovative leadership to grow and guide the organization's significance and impact.

In partnership the CEO and Board of Directors will develop a vision and strategic plan for the Auditorium Theatre's next chapter and work closely with its various constituents on the plan's successful implementation and evaluation efforts. The vision will broadly define the direction for the Auditorium Theatre over the next decade and will lead to plans for programming, physical improvements and revenue generation.

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The CEO will be responsible for identifying programming that coincides with the new strategic direction of the institution. The Joffrey Ballet's departure from the Auditorium Theatre beginning in 2020 opens up a significant opportunity for the organization to rethink, further diversify and expand its programming.

The CEO will provide strategic, artistic and production leadership through the following responsibilities:

- Creating an identity for the Auditorium Theatre, making it "the" place to see live entertainment in Chicago.
- Developing an appropriate mix of mission-based programming, partnerships and rentals according to the mission and the fiscal goals of the organization.
- Seeking out opportunities of synergy with the University to provide students, faculty and staff with unique opportunities to experience and learn from world-class artistic performances.

Additionally, the CEO will work to establish relationships both locally and nationally with corporations, foundations and individuals as a key advocate for the Auditorium Theatre. Key responsibilities include:

- Working with the Chief Development Officer to make new strategic philanthropic connections.
- Directly participating with the Board of Directors in building relationships with civic, corporate and philanthropic leaders.
- Acting as the primary spokesperson for the Auditorium Theatre to the media, constituents, and the community in general.
- Working with the Chief Marketing Officer to develop and monitor appropriate public relations, marketing, and public affairs programs.
- Working with the Chief Operating Officer to create an atmosphere of service throughout the organization and ensuring that front-of-house, back stage and other support personnel provide high quality and valuable service to all clients, artists and audiences/members.
- Assisting in creating significant sponsorship opportunities to ensure that programming is mission-driven and financially successful.

As the key administrative officer, the CEO will be responsible for the following activities:

- Developing and implementing management strategy and administrative policies that support the mission and advance the artistic and financial goals of the organization.
- Working with the Chief Financial Officer to create and monitor the annual budgets, both operating and capital, to ensure short and long term fiscal health; likewise, making certain that cash flow permits the organization to make steady progress towards achievement of the mission and that those funds are allocated properly to reflect present needs and future potential.
- Providing on-going strategic leadership to the organization; working to position the Auditorium Theatre and further develop the brand, and working closely with the Chief Programming Officer to further refine the programming vision and ensure its fulfillment.

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- Overseeing organizational structure and staffing plans, hiring, motivating, monitoring, evaluating and replacing staff as needed; managing annual employee evaluations and compensation programs.
- Maximizing staff resources to achieve cost effectiveness and optimal service to clients and patrons;
- Promoting a healthy working relationship with union personnel and leading in negotiations with unions regarding contracts.
- Ensuring a transparent operating relationship with the University.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

The ideal candidate will have the following professional and personal skills, qualities and characteristics:

A Strategic and Visionary Leader

The CEO is a strategic, entrepreneurial and visionary leader capable of envisioning, clearly defining and then projecting the Auditorium Theatre's value proposition to its patrons, the Chicagoland community and beyond. S/he is experienced at articulating and implementing a plan for increased impact in an organization's next chapter. The CEO will inspire the staff, Board and patrons to see where the Auditorium Theatre could, and should, be going and push the organization forward in a collaborative manner. S/he can successfully leverage the skills and talents of a Board and staff to develop a strategic plan, while working closely with the Auditorium Theatre's various constituents on the plan's successful implementation and evaluation efforts. A transformational leader, s/he will offer creative ideas to adapt and diversify the Auditorium Theatre's business model, offerings and programs to address the changing needs of the communities it serves. The CEO has the drive and passion to remain at the forefront of the sector and continues to develop new and unique opportunities to serve the mission.

An Ambassador and Fundraiser

The CEO is an ambassador for the Auditorium Theatre, sharing the mission and vision with the outside world and helping to expand Auditorium Theatre's role in the community more broadly. S/he enjoys the external side of the role, working to inspire enthusiastic engagement and broader and deeper interest in the organization and its programming. S/he will build strong brand recognition and awareness, will establish partnerships and seek opportunities to promote the Auditorium Theatre. S/he has exceptional interpersonal skills with the ability to build and sustain strong support across a wide range of stakeholders including staff, Board, donors and the public. S/he develops a powerful sense of shared purpose in others and motivates them to engage in the opportunities and future of Auditorium Theatre. S/he enjoys fundraising and can successfully convey the objectives of the Auditorium Theatre to potential donors. S/he is fluent in communicating the value of performing arts institutions, and in particular, the Auditorium Theatre, on a local, regional and international level. S/he is a media savvy communicator who brings passion for the Auditorium

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Theatre's mission as its spokesperson. S/he is politically astute and attuned with a professional presence.

Nonprofit Management

The CEO is a seasoned executive with strong staff, operational and financial management experience. S/he has a track record of sound financial planning, oversight and accountability, with the ability to clearly communicate financial results to the Board. S/he will bring experience building and leading high performing teams of the highest degree of professionalism and guiding team members' growth and development. S/he will have an abiding commitment to a diverse and inclusive team environment, one that is able to establish priorities, goals, and timelines to achieve quantifiable and qualitative outcomes. S/he will understand and implement best nonprofit management practices and planning, including compelling communication messages and effective marketing strategies, management succession, and most importantly, ensuring that overall day-to-day operations are aligned with strategic goals. S/he understands the importance of a robust partnership with the Board and will ensure fiduciary responsibility and sound financial management practices and accountability to the Board.

Passion for the Mission

The CEO has a sincere passion for the arts, and an understanding of how they enhance a community and the lives of its citizens. S/he is committed to bringing the Auditorium Theatre's mission to the residents of Chicago, surrounding communities, and beyond. S/he is innovative with the goal of helping Auditorium Theatre expand its brand and reach and deepen its impact. S/he is a strong, collaborative leader with the ability to build a sense of shared purpose throughout the organization. It is imperative that s/he leads by example and always stays true to the values of the Auditorium Theatre. Moreover, the ideal candidate is an individual of unquestioned integrity, ethics and values; someone who can be trusted without reservation.

CONTACT

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Apply for this position [here](#).