

ORGANIZATION: Classical American Homes Preservation Trust
POSITION: President
REPORTS TO: Board of Trustees
LOCATION: New York, NY
WEBSITE: www.classicalamericanhomes.org
TO APPLY: Please send resume and cover letter to CAHPT@pbrsearch.com.

BACKGROUND

“It was a sultry night, the pittosporum was in bloom: the air smelled like an orange grove. As I walked toward Nine East Battery, suddenly there was looming up in the dark with its columns: the most beautiful house I’d ever seen.” – Dick Jenrette

This is Dick Jenrette’s description of the first time he saw Roper House, the Charleston home that was his first classical home purchase and the beginning of a lifelong passion for restoring, living in, writing about, enlivening, and sharing some of the finest examples of residential architecture in the United States. He also developed a love for collecting the period furniture, paintings, and objects – many of them original to the homes – that filled the homes.

In 1993, Dick founded Classical American Homes Preservation Trust (CAHPT) to ensure that his homes would be preserved, protected, and open to the public for generations to come. Today, CAHPT features six stunning examples of classical American residential architecture, their surrounding landscapes and scenic trails, and fine and decorative arts of the first half of the 19th Century. Together, they represent Mr. Jenrette’s legacy and the joy he took in what he playfully referred to as his addiction to historic preservation. They are also robust educational resources, the sites of lively events and parties, and testaments to the enduring American heritage esthetic.

THE HOMES

- **Ayr Mount** (Hillsborough, North Carolina), a Federal-era plantation house built in 1815 by William Kirkland.
- **Millford** (Pinewood, South Carolina), built in 1839-41, is considered by many to be the finest example of Greek Revival residential architecture in America.
- **Roper House** (Charleston, South Carolina), built in 1838 on the recently completed High Battery, commands a sweeping view of the Charleston, South Carolina harbor. The view looks past Fort Sumter, where the Civil War began, and on to the Atlantic Ocean beyond.
- **Estate Cane Garden** (St. Croix, Virgin Islands), built in 1784, is an example of a small, classical Palladian Villa, which in this case also happens to have a strong resemblance to the White House (or at least a miniature version).
- **George F. Baker House** (New York City), located on the highest point in Manhattan, is a complex of several adjoining residences once owned by the Baker Family on the corner of Park Avenue and East 93rd Street. The carriage house is now headquarters for Classical American Homes Preservation Trust.
- **Edgewater** (Barrytown, New York), built in 1825 on the Hudson River in upstate New York, combines classical architecture with a dramatic setting to create one of the Hudson Valley’s most charming riverside homes.

POSITION

Following the passing of Dick Jenrette in 2018, the Board seeks a chief executive officer to embrace the ideals and vision that honor his legacy and envision a future for CAHPT that is sustainable, relevant, operationally excellent, and engages a wide array of audiences. At its core, the work ahead involves the evolution of CAHPT from a founder’s entity into a professionalized organization that promotes the appreciation of classical American architecture in an ever-evolving conversation about architecture, homes, and decorative arts.

Reporting to, and working in close collaboration with, the Board of directors, the President will be a visionary, strategic leader with exceptional executive and operational skills. The President will drive the creation and execution of the organization's next strategic plan, as well as any attendant reorganization. The President will also serve as the Trust's chief spokesperson and have a strong external presence, cultivating relationships with potential partners and prospective donors.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Strategic Leadership

- Work with the Board and staff to develop CAHPT's next strategic plan, with a focus on defining the Trust's priorities in a way that stays true to Dick Jenrette's vision and legacy and also focuses on creating a sustainable and compelling future. This will include developing a vision for the organization as well as the financial, operations, facilities, staffing, and program plans that will make that vision a reality.
- Effectively communicate the goals of the strategic plan both internally and externally, so that all stakeholders understand their role and responsibility in making the plan a reality.
- Set goals and meet them; drive the development of best-in-class processes related to finance and administration, fundraising, and communications.
- Develop partnerships with organizations that are appropriate to the goals of the strategic plan. These might include, but are not limited to, other preservation organizations, educational institutions, and museums.
- Working closely with the Board, retain and attract Board members who will actively work with CAHPT in achieving its strategic goals.
- Lead and manage the staff so they are inspired to do exceptional work; be a positive and accessible presence.
- Set high standards for professionalism, work product, and collegiality.
- Bolster communications across the organization so that staff are sharing information and cross-collaborating in productive ways.
- Communicate effectively with board, staff, and other stakeholders so that all involved understand Board and executive decisions and can adjust their work accordingly.

Financial and Operational Leadership

- Bring strong business acumen to assess and optimize the financial and operational health as well as the overall value of the Trust's buildings, properties, objects, and holdings.
- Review, and as needed, improve, all building maintenance and safety plans; work with local communities on regulatory issues as needed.
- Assess the current staffing and compensation structure, making adjustments as necessary to maximize human resource efficiency and effectiveness.
- Evaluate current processes, procedures, and systems, and institute new ones as necessary to ensure CAHPT is maximizing its business efficiency.
- Oversee the finances and budget necessary to carry out the strategic plan, maintain strong operations and facilities, support appropriate staff levels, and meet capital improvement needs.
- Ensure a consistent, high-quality visitor experience at all sites, including meaningful programs and events.
- Work closely with property managers to ensure that all buildings, interiors, and landscapes are well-maintained.
- Collaborate with the Board and staff on long-term financial and capital-needs planning.
- Manage the work of professional advisors, including CPAs, attorneys, bankers, contractors and builders.

External Relations

- Be a valued and visible member of the historic preservation and historic architecture communities locally, regionally, and nationally, with the ability to forge meaningful partnerships for the benefit of the Trust, including its brand and its stakeholders.
- Collaborate with the Board and Director of Development on all fundraising activities, further engaging current donors and identifying, cultivating, soliciting and stewarding new supporters.
- Be the external spokesperson and representative for CAHPT, working to elevate its profile, expand appreciation for and awareness of its mission, and introduce new people to the joy Dick Jenrette took in historic preservation and sharing that joy with others.

QUALIFICATIONS

First and foremost, the ideal candidate will share Dick Jenrette's passion for historic preservation and historic homes. In addition, he or she will be a seasoned, strategic, and emotionally intelligent leader who takes joy in collaborating with others to define a vision and make it a reality. He or she will also be creative, ambitious, energetic, and have the business expertise to ensure a bright and lively future for CAHPT. Finally, he or she will have deep knowledge of or expertise in historic homes, architecture, historic objects, and/or historic sites. Specifically, CAHPT's next President will have:

- At least fifteen years of executive management experience, with a track record of motivating results-oriented teams and taking an organization through its next stage of growth.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills and a persuasive and passionate communication style. The President must be externally facing, outgoing, and comfortable engaging the public.
- An action-orientation, an entrepreneurial spirit, an adaptable work style, and an innovative approach to business planning.
- Highly developed emotional intelligence, excellent interpersonal skills, and the ability to work collaboratively and effectively with a wide array of people.
- A successful track record of working with a Board of Trustees with the ability to expand existing and develop new Board member relationships.
- Passion, idealism, integrity, a positive attitude, a mission-centric orientation, and self-directed work style.
- Financial acumen and ability to conduct long-term projections.
- A bachelor's degree, with an advanced degree in a related field preferred.
- The ability to travel on an as-needed basis (East Coast).
- Expertise in historic preservation, homes, architecture, and objects preferred; the Board is open to considering candidates with strong executive leadership and business skills who have a passion for and familiarity with historic homes or experience leading place-based cultural organizations.

Classical American Homes Preservation Trust is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, national origin, ethnic origin, citizenship status, disability, race, religion, creed, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, marital status, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law in its employment policies. In addition, CAHPT will provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities.