



POSITION: President
REPORTS TO: Board of Trustees
LOCATION: New York, New York
WEBSITE: www.mofad.org
TO APPLY: Please send resume and cover letter to MOFADPresident@pbrsearch.com.

BACKGROUND

Museum of Food and Drink (MOFAD) is a nonprofit that is creating the world's first independent museum dedicated to the exploration of food culture with exhibits you can taste, touch, and smell. Inspiring curiosity about the world through the lens of food, the museum advances public understanding of the culture, history, science, production, and commerce of food and drink – ultimately exploring how what we eat connects us to one another.

The museum currently has an operating budget of \$1M, full- and part-time staff of 13, and operates MOFAD Lab, a proof-of-concept, 5,000-square-foot exhibit space in Brooklyn that has been the site for the critically acclaimed shows [Chow: Making the Chinese American Restaurant](#) and [Flavor: Making It And Faking It](#), and immersive arts experiences like [Knights of the Raj NYC](#).

In March of 2020, MOFAD will launch its next exhibition, [African/American: Making the Nation's Table](#), at the Africa Center on Museum Mile. With a budget of \$1M, this will be the country's first major exhibition celebrating the countless black chefs, farmers, and food and drink producers who have laid the foundation for American food culture. The MOFAD curatorial team has been working on this exhibition with Lead Curator [Dr. Jessica B. Harris](#) for over two years now, and it is set to be the organization's most powerful show yet. Its centerpiece will be the historic *Ebony Magazine* Test Kitchen – the source of recipes that nourished the homes of millions – which MOFAD will restore and make public for the first time. [Harlem Needle Arts](#) and artist [Adrian Franks](#) are producing a massive, 30-foot-long Legacy Quilt with 400 blocks, each one telling the story of one African American culinary innovator. The show will feature music by Questlove, tastings by Carla Hall and others, virtual reality experiences, and much more.

This show will help MOFAD realize its goal of becoming the world's premier food museum and a global educational resource that inspires generations of curious eaters of all ages and backgrounds. To learn more about the organization, please visit [this link](#).

With the Lab's lease expiring in June 2020, the show at the Africa Center will serve as the organization's physical presence through the close of the show in August 2020. This will give the president the opportunity to consider alternative venues for programming while determining the ideal size, configuration, and location of the Museum's eventual permanent home.

POSITION

The president will be joining MOFAD at an exciting and pivotal time in the museum's evolution. They will serve as the visionary leader for MOFAD: building, fundraising for, and managing its transformation from innovative lab to renowned brick-and-mortar museum. The president will work closely with the board, staff, and other stakeholders to refine the vision for the museum, create a strategic plan that clearly defines the process by which that vision will become a reality, and drive the plan's implementation. The president will foster a culture of active collaboration, both internally and externally, to advance the museum's mission and ensure that present and future exhibitions, programs, and other activities leverage and amplify one another. In addition, the president will bring rigorous business and operational discipline to an evolving MOFAD to secure the growth and longevity of the museum. Finally, the president will bring, build, and maintain productive relationships with donors, collaborators, and experts in the worlds of food, art, and culture to ensure that MOFAD is financially sustainable, well-respected, and known locally, nationally, and internationally.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Strategic Leadership

- Develop a strong fundraising base with the longer-term goal of launching, driving, and successfully closing a capital campaign to realize the strategic plan. Grow a robust development function to accomplish current and future goals.
- Lead and develop MOFAD's strategic plan, with a focus on several key goals: refine MOFAD's priorities and plans to secure a permanent space for the museum; lead, manage, mentor, inspire, and retain high-quality staff; and ensure relevant, meaningful experiences for all who interact with MOFAD's exhibits and programs.
- Effectively communicate the goals of the strategic plan both internally and externally so that all stakeholders – from board members to major donors and corporate supporters – understand their role and responsibility in making the plan a reality.
- Working closely with the board, attract and retain new board members who will actively assist MOFAD in achieving its strategic, programmatic, and financial goals over the next three to five years.
- 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, and hold people responsible for maintaining them; support staff in their careers, ensuring people have opportunities for professional development that enhance their growth and their work.
- Bolster communications across the organization so departments are sharing information and cross-collaborating in productive ways.
- Communicate in an effective and timely manner so that staff understand board and executive decisions and can adjust their work accordingly.
- Ensure staff members understand how their specific roles contribute to the overarching mission and purpose of the organization.
- Demonstrate best practices and innovations in the field of nonprofit organizations and draw on that knowledge to ensure that MOFAD develops into a more vibrant, forward-thinking and -acting institution.

Financial and Operational Leadership

- In partnership with key stakeholders, find a new space for the museum that will become its permanent home, and launch a capital campaign to support it.
- Ensure a consistent, high-quality visitor experience designed to grow MOFAD's visitorship, including developing exciting, engaging exhibits and meaningful public programming.
- Collaborate with the accounting and administration professionals on MOFAD's financial operations, including budgets and long-term financial planning, ensuring the organization has effective operational and financial procedures in place.
- Conduct long-term projections to ensure that MOFAD is appropriately planning for the future.
- Institute and/or evaluate current processes, procedures, and systems to ensure MOFAD is maximizing its business efficiency while delivering an excellent visitor experience.

External Relations

- Become a valued and visible member of the food, arts, and culture communities locally, regionally, nationally, and globally, with the ability to engage with and mobilize those who care about MOFAD, including: food entrepreneurs, celebrity chefs, writers and critics, businesses, purveyors and manufacturers, farmers and growers, activists, historians, anthropologists, scientists, enthusiasts, donors, civic leaders, community members, partners, and board members.
- Be the external representative of MOFAD, working actively to elevate its profile, promote and publicize its exhibitions, and expand appreciation for its mission.
- Identify and develop partnerships with like-minded organizations in order to further the mission.

QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate will be a seasoned, strategic, emotionally intelligent leader with an interest in building a high-profile cultural institution and the ability to guide the organization into its next phases of existence. Specifically, the president will have:

- At least ten years of executive management experience, with a track record of building an organization, leading change management, and motivating results-oriented teams.
- A successful record of raising significant financial support for general operations, capital projects, and programmatic initiatives, with the ability to grow and diversify revenue streams.
- Demonstrated interest in the mission of MOFAD, with the ability to leverage relationships with other leaders in the cultural world for MOFAD's benefit.
- The ability to be a strategic visionary and an inspirational leader for staff, board members, and the community.
- An entrepreneurial orientation combined with a "get-it-done" mentality; a history of turning ambitious goals into reality.
- Emotional intelligence, a winning personality, and the desire to engage with people from various disciplines and backgrounds.
- Excellent management and interpersonal skills and experience leading staff in ways that emphasize teamwork and growth.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills; a persuasive and passionate communication style.
- Experience working with a board of trustees, with the ability to expand existing and develop new board member relationships.
- Financial acumen and the ability to conduct long-term projections.
- A bachelor's degree, with an advanced degree in a related field and/or an MBA preferred.

Museum of Food and Drink is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The organization values diversity in all its forms, encourages and welcomes applications from candidates from diverse backgrounds, 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, MOFAD will provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities.