

Executive Director Opportunity



The Organization

The Winnipeg Folk Festival (WFF) is a year-round arts organization that presents one of North America's premier outdoor music festivals each July. Committed to creating experiences of discovery and learning through the celebration of people and music, the WFF is a multi-day, family-friendly, annual outdoor music festival held at Birds Hill Park, Manitoba. WFF thrives on a culture of volunteerism and generosity of spirit. The organization plays a leadership role in the local and national arts community, and is committed to creating environments that are welcoming, safe, accessible, and respectful, honouring authenticity and celebrating diversity within our community.

The Opportunity

Reporting to the Board of Directors (Board), the Executive Director (ED) is responsible for the overall operations and finances of the WFF. The ED is an ex-officio member of the Board and works closely with the Board to operationalize the mission and vision of the organization and implement the strategic plan. In partnership with the Artistic Director and the senior leadership team, the ED is responsible for creating an inclusive and collaborative working environment that embraces the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

Central to the role is the ability to build meaningful relationships with the community, including supporters, donors, funders, and the arts and culture sector in Manitoba and across Canada.

Responsibilities

- Articulate, communicate, and implement a clear vision for the WFF in consultation with the Board and staff.
- Serve as an ex-officio member of the Board, prepare monthly reports, attend Board meetings and all Standing Committee meetings.
- Hold primary responsibility for the financial management and administration of the WFF.
- Lead the risk management function, including preparation to meet the challenges of climate change.
- Direct and oversee the overall communications and marketing strategy.
- Direct fundraising and development initiatives, cultivating and fostering relationships with donors, granting agencies and supporters.
- Oversee the hiring, management, performance evaluation and professional development of staff.
- Foster a collaborative and diverse work environment, advancing the principles DEI and the WFF's commitments as a signatory to the Indigenous Accord.
- Lead special projects including the integration and utilization of the mobile main stage, and the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the festival.
- Liaise with other organizations, including but not limited to, government, tourism, business, arts and culture, and other local and national music festivals.

Selection Criteria

- A minimum of ten years experience in a senior leadership role preferably in an arts or culture-related field.
- Strategic thinker with a collaborative working style and experience working with a Board.
- Strong leadership skills including an ability to inspire others and manage conflicts.
- Financial acumen and business savvy combined with entrepreneurial skill and innovative thinking.
- Knowledge of funding and operational challenges common to non-profit arts and cultural organizations.
- Stature and presence to play a leading role in the arts community in Manitoba.
- Proven ability to foster a collaborative and diverse work environment.
- Exceptional verbal and written communications skills and an effective presenter.

To apply send a resume and cover letter to barbara@harrisleadership.com quoting project #24101.