

(This search was completed in March, 2002, with the appointment of
Christina DePaul, Director of the Myers School of Art at the University of Akron.)

Job Announcement

The Corcoran Dean of the College of Art and Design (Washington, DC)

(Posted: October 26, 2001)

The Corcoran College of Art and Design in Washington, DC, has retained Slesinger Management Services to recruit a seasoned leader with deep experience in the visual arts and art education to serve as Dean. This is an exceptional opportunity for an individual to lead a four-year, degree-granting college of art and design that is part of the same organization that houses the prestigious Corcoran Museum of Art. Applications will be accepted until the job is filled.

The Organization

The Corcoran College of Art and Design is the only four-year accredited college of visual arts in Washington, DC. Founded in 1890, the Corcoran offers students classes in fine arts, including painting, sculpture, and ceramics; graphic design; and photography.

Approximately 350 fulltime students are enrolled in its Bachelor of Fine Arts program; in addition, about 3,000 students enroll annually in its non-degree, continuing education and Associate of Fine Arts programs. Classes are held in the Corcoran's main building at 17th Street and New York Avenue as well as a new facility in Georgetown that features state-of-the-art studios and computer graphics laboratories.

The Museum of Art, the other half of the Corcoran, is one of the largest and most important privately supported cultural institutions in Washington, DC. Located in a landmark Beaux Arts building, recent shows include Annie Liebovitz: Women; Norman Rockwell: Pictures for the American People; Rhapsodies in Black: Art of the Harlem Renaissance; Andy Warhol: Social Observer; Arthur Tress: Fantastic Voyage; and In Response to Place: Photographs from the Nature Conservancy's Last Great Places.

Including both the College and Museum, the Corcoran has a staff of 185 and an operating budget of \$20 million. Revenue comes from diverse sources, including grants and contributions, admission fees, member dues, tuition, gift shop and restaurant sales, and investment income from an endowment whose current market value is \$30 million.

The Corcoran anticipates major growth over the coming years. With the recent completion of its new facility in Georgetown, the College is enrolling increasing numbers of students in both degree and non-degree programs. More significantly, the main building on 17th Street is about to undergo a major expansion with the construction of a 140,000 square-foot wing that has been designed by world-renowned architect Frank Gehry and is scheduled to open in 2005 or 2006.

The Corcoran is in the first phase of a capital campaign to finance the wing; earlier this year, it announced a \$30 million lead gift from AOL executives Robert Pittman and Barry Schuler and their wives, which coupled with funds already raised, brings the campaign approximately half-way toward its goal. The new wing will enable the College to expand enrollment significantly.

The Corcoran is governed by a 27-person Board of Trustees. Two Boards of Overseers assume general responsibility for policy at the College and the Museum, respectively. The Corcoran's President and Director (CEO) is David C. Levy, who guided Parsons School of Design in New York City to national prominence when he served as its Executive Dean and Chief Administrative Officer before joining the Corcoran in 1991.

For more information about the college (and the museum), please go to <http://www.Corcoran.org>.

The Position and its Principal Responsibilities

The Dean of the College, who reports to the Corcoran's President and Director, is the Chief Administrative Officer of the College. The Dean is part of the Corcoran's senior management team, working closely with the President and Director, Chief Curator of the Museum, and other senior staff who oversee fundraising, communications, and finance and administration for both the College and Museum.

Key responsibilities include:

1. Strengthening existing academic programs and developing new curricula to insure that the college is providing its students with excellent instruction in a broad and relevant array of fields in the visual arts.
2. Supervising and hiring new faculty to insure the presence of the full range of skills required to meet students' needs.
3. Taking a leading and visible role in raising funds from foundations, corporations, and individuals to help finance the Corcoran's planned expansion, which will enable the College to increase enrollment significantly.
4. Developing and monitoring the budget to insure that the College is financially sound.
5. Working closely with the curator of the Museum to insure that the College makes maximum use of its close relationship with a world-class art museum—one of the school's most important distinguishing characteristics.
6. Working effectively with the College's Board of Overseers, a key advisory body that makes policy recommendations to the Corcoran Board of Trustees.

Desired Skills, Experience, and Characteristics

The ideal Dean of the College should be:

1. An accomplished manager, with at least 10 years of broad-based senior management experience in visual arts education or administration.
2. A leader who can motivate creative and talented faculty and other senior staff to develop and implement new programs that will strengthen the College.

3. Capable of representing the college externally, especially to potential donors to the Corcoran. A zest for fundraising is highly desirable.
4. Knowledgeable in the visual arts, ideally through professional training and experience as a practicing artist or designer.
5. Appreciative of the public mission of the Corcoran, and the opportunities available to the College due to its close ties to the Museum and its prime location in our nation's capital.
6. Collegial. The dean must have a personality and work style that insures that the internal atmosphere will remain open and collaborative, especially among highly creative senior staff both within the College and between the College and the Museum.

Compensation

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

To Apply

Please **e-mail or mail** a: 1) cover letter, 2) resume, 3) email address, and 4) three-year salary history (which will be held in strict confidence) to:

Larry H. Slesinger
Slesinger Management Services
5016 Westpath Terrace
Bethesda, MD 20816
Tel.: 301-320-0680
E-mail: Larry@SlesingerManagement.com (attach files in
Microsoft Word only)

(This job announcement can also be found at <http://www.SlesingerManagement.com>.)

The Corcoran is an Equal Opportunity Employer.