

(This search was completed in July, 2001, with the appointment of Albert Ruesga, Director of New Ventures in Philanthropy at the Forum of Regional Association of Grantmakers in Washington, DC.)

Job Announcement
Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
Vice President for Programs
(Posted: May 21, 2001)

The Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation in Washington, DC, is looking for a person with an accomplished career in philanthropy and the nonprofit sector to serve as Vice President for Programs. This new position is an exceptional opportunity for an individual to oversee the foundation's highly-respected grantmaking and communications programs. Applications will be accepted until the job is filled.

The Foundation

The Meyer Foundation is one of the largest and most influential grant-making foundations in Washington. Founded in 1944 by Eugene Meyer, owner and publisher of *The Washington Post*, and his wife Agnes E. Meyer, the foundation currently has assets of \$150 million and a staff of 15. During the current fiscal year, it expects to award over 200 grants totaling \$5.5 million.

The Meyer Foundation's mission is to develop the Washington, DC, metropolitan area as a community by supporting capable, community-based nonprofit organizations that foster the well-being of all people in the region. The foundation seeks to achieve its mission by identifying visionary and talented nonprofit leaders; making early and strategic investments in nonprofit organizations; strengthening the organizational capacity of nonprofits; promoting a strong and influential nonprofit sector; building partnerships to foster the sector's work; and serving as a resource to other donors who want to make effective charitable investments in the region.

The Meyer Foundation makes grants in the following program areas: neighborhood development and housing; health; education; community service; the arts and humanities; and law and justice. The nationally-recognized Nonprofit Sector Advancement Fund provides grants, loans, and other programs to promote the organizational effectiveness of nonprofits. The foundation's award-winning communications program seeks to boost the visibility of the foundation's grantees and the region's nonprofit sector. For more information about the foundation, go to <http://www.meyerfoundation.org>

Principal Responsibilities

1. **Manage and coordinate the foundation's grantmaking and communications programs by leading a team of accomplished professionals.**

- Create an effective learning environment within the foundation that enables information and knowledge to flow readily within the organization and be made accessible to the foundation's audiences.
- With the communications manager, develop a strategic communications plan linked to the foundation's mission, and integrate communications responsibilities and activities within program work.
- With program staff, develop and coordinate program initiatives and opportunities for staff leadership.
- Review and approve grant recommendations made by program staff for presentation to the foundation's president and board.
- Develop strategies to enable the foundation to evaluate the impact of its work and extend effective evaluation tools to grantees.
- Nurture and develop program staff through a creative professional development program.

2. **Work in close partnership with the foundation's president.** This responsibility includes creating ways to ensure that the president remains strategically involved in program and communications decisions, and sufficiently engaged in grantmaking to be able to serve as a knowledgeable resource to business and civic leaders and other donors. This collaborative relationship will also involve sharing responsibilities of representing the foundation before external audiences.

Desired Skills and Personal Characteristics

The Vice President for Programs should be:

- An experienced senior manager and leader, with outstanding interpersonal skills and a collegial, team building style.
- Able to develop a strong partnership with the president and work effectively with talented program and communications professionals.
- Knowledgeable about and deeply committed to the nonprofit sector.
- Adept at organizational planning.
- Experienced and sophisticated in using communications as a tool to achieve an organization's mission.
- Knowledgeable and committed to the use of technology to advance the work of the foundation and its grantees.
- An outstanding communicator with great judgment, and able to represent the foundation before key external audiences.
- Instinctively entrepreneurial, with a strong desire to identify or create opportunities that the foundation should pursue.
- Congenial, wise, and fun. The foundation is a small organization made up of people who work collegially. The new Vice President must have personal qualities and a work style that ensure that the internal atmosphere will remain open, friendly, and highly effective.

Desired Experience

The ideal Vice President for Programs will have at least ten years of nonprofit or relevant management experience, including significant experience in grantmaking or with community-based nonprofits. Knowledge of the Washington, DC, region is highly desired.

Compensation

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications, and competitive with comparable positions at other Washington-based organizations. The Meyer Foundation offers generous benefits and a working atmosphere that is family-friendly.

To Apply

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

Larry H. Slesinger
Slesinger Management Services
5809 Augusta Lane
Bethesda, MD 20816
Tel.: 301-320-0680
E-mail: LSlesinger@erols.com (attached files in MS Word only)

(This job announcement can also be found at www.SlesingerManagement.com.)

The Meyer Foundation is an Equal Opportunity Employer.