



CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

THE JEWISH MUSEUM

Location – Greater New York City



The Aspen Leadership Group is proud to partner with the Jewish Museum, located on New York's Museum Mile, in the search for a Chief Operating Officer.

The Chief Operating Officer will serve as the organization's chief financial and administration officer, overseeing critical functions, including Finance, Information Technology, Building Operations, Security, Legal, and Human Resources. The Chief Operating Officer will serve as a trusted advisor to the Helen Goldsmith Menschel Director, the Senior Leadership Team, and the Board of Trustees—and will unite multiple constituencies, ensuring accountability for a healthy, sustainable operating environment.

The Jewish Museum is an art museum committed to illuminating the complexity and vibrancy of Jewish culture for a global audience. Through distinctive exhibitions and programs that present the work of diverse artists and thinkers, it shares ideas, provokes dialogue, and promotes understanding.

The Jewish Museum is one of the world's preeminent institutions devoted to exploring art and Jewish culture, from ancient to contemporary. It was founded in 1904 in the library of the Jewish Theological Seminary, where it was housed for more than four decades. The Jewish Museum was the first institution of its kind in the United States, and one of the oldest existing Jewish museums in the world. It is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the museum field's mark of distinction since 1971, denoting peer-based validation of the Museum's operations and impact.

Today, the Jewish Museum presents a diverse schedule of internationally acclaimed exhibitions, while maintaining a collection of nearly 30,000 objects reflecting global Jewish identity—painting, sculpture, works on paper, photography, installations, media, archaeological artifacts, antiquities, and ceremonial objects. Nearly 600 objects are on view in the exhibition, *Scenes from the Collection*.

The Jewish Museum's programming includes major exhibitions of an interdisciplinary nature, often employing a combination of art and artifacts interpreted through the lens of social history. *The Dreyfus Affair: Art, Truth and Justice* (1987); *Bridges and Boundaries: African Americans and American Jews* (1992); *The Power of Conversation: Jewish Women and Their Salons* (2005); *Sarah Bernhardt: The Art of High Drama* (2005); *Helena Rubinstein: Beauty Is Power* (2014); *Revolution of the Eye: Modern Art and the Birth of American Television* (2015); *Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art* (2021); and *The Hare With Amber Eyes* (2022) are examples of this type of exhibition.

The Museum is also known for monograph shows of significant artists, such as: Camille Pissarro (1995 and 2007); Marc Chagall (1996, 2001, and 2013); George Segal (1998); Ben Shahn (1998); Amedeo Chaim Soutine (1998 and 2018); Anni Albers (2000); Modigliani (2004 and 2017); Eva Hesse (2006); Alex Katz (2006); Louise Nevelson (2007); Andy Warhol (2008); Man Ray (2009); Maira Kalman (2011); Edouard Vuillard (2012); Kehinde Wiley (2012); Jack Goldstein (2013); Art Spiegelman (2013); Mel Bochner (2014); Laurie Simmons (2015); Pierre Chareau (2016); Roberto Burle Marx (2016); Isaac Mizrahi (2016); Florine Stettheimer (2017); Rachel Feinstein (2019); Martha Rosler (2019); Lawrence Weiner (2020); and Louise Bourgeois (2021).

Works of modern and contemporary artists are regularly presented in group exhibitions, such as: *Too Jewish? Challenging Traditional Identities* (1996); *The Jewish Identity Project: New American Photography* (2005); *Action/Abstraction: Pollock, de Kooning, and American Art, 1940 – 1976* (2008); *Shifting the Gaze: Painting and Feminism* (2010); *The Radical Camera: New York's Photo League, 1936 – 1951* (2011); *Other Primary Structures* (2014); *Take Me (I'm Yours)* (2016); *Leonard Cohen: A Crack in Everything* (2019); and *Edith Halpert and the Rise of American Art* (2019).

For more than a century, the Jewish Museum has illuminated art and Jewish culture—from biblical times to the present—offering intellectually engaging and educational exhibitions and programs for people of all ages and backgrounds. Together, with its unparalleled collection, the Museum provides an ever-changing and dynamic range of opportunities for exploring multiple facets of the global Jewish experience, and for educating current and future generations.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The Chief Operating Officer will report to the Helen Goldsmith Menschel Director, Claudia Gould, and will serve as one of two Senior Members (in tandem with the Senior Deputy Director) on the Leadership Team. The Chief Operating Officer will oversee approximately 25 staff members.

FROM THE HELEN GOLDSMITH MENSCHEL DIRECTOR

For more than a century, the Jewish Museum has illuminated art and Jewish culture, from ancient times to the present. The Jewish Museum occupies a unique space in the cultural landscape of New York and the world. Through distinctive exhibitions and programs that present the work of diverse artists and thinkers, we share ideas, provoke dialogue, and promote understanding.

Our five-year Strategic Plan, adopted in 2021, builds on the Jewish Museum's rich history, and envisions a future as an institution that seeks to become more inclusive. It imagines an exhibition plan that reflects the successful models of the past, and builds on new initiatives to represent global diversity. It includes new investment, in both physical and virtual spaces, incorporating the lessons we learned during the pandemic about the importance and reach of digital programs.

The Chief Operating Officer will drive the effective day-to-day operations of the Museum and be a visible leader, as part of our senior management team, in continuing to bring our Strategic Plan to life—helping deliver key pillars of our diversity, equity, access, and inclusion plan; improving our technology infrastructure; and promoting the Museum's long-term organizational health.

—Claudia Gould, Helen Goldsmith Menschel Director

THE JEWISH MUSEUM'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESS, AND INCLUSION

The Jewish Museum is rooted in Jewish culture that serves people of all religious, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. As an identity-based institution representing a historically marginalized people, the Museum plays an important role among cultural institutions to fight against all forms of bigotry and discrimination, and to promote understanding among wide audiences. The Jewish Museum invites applicants of all backgrounds to consider joining the Museum in its work.

The Jewish Museum is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all, and to promoting a positive work culture that celebrates difference, challenges prejudice, and ensures fairness. Integrity, collegiality, and excellence are central to the Museum's values. These values, along with an institution-wide commitment to Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion are embedded in the Museum's strategic plan, and will be the focus of a comprehensive DEAI action plan.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Financial Oversight

The Chief Operating Officer will

- oversee short- and long-term strategic financial planning—ensuring the long-term stability of the institution and alignment with the Director's vision;
- supervise all audit and accounting functions, including oversight of the external audit and preparation of the Museum's Form 990;
- ensure regulatory compliance and the highest ethical standards;
- lead the annual operating budget process;
- serve as the key staff liaison to the Finance, Audit, and Investment Committees of the Board;
- oversee organizational cash flow and forecasting;
- develop effective reporting and analytic tools to keep the staff and Board apprised of the Museum's financial status;
- provide tactical recommendations that further the Museum's mission and strategic direction; and
- stay abreast of new regulations and trends, ensuring best practices in non-profit philanthropic financial management.

Administrative Oversight

The Chief Operating Officer will

- as part of the Senior Leadership Team, drive strategic and tactical planning efforts that strengthen the Museum's infrastructure and sustainability;
- help prepare for and execute major capital projects, renovations, and building repairs;
- with the Senior Director of Operations & Exhibition Services and Associate Director of Security, ensure the functional integrity and security of the Museum, including oversight of its security systems, building maintenance, and mechanical plans;
- with the Director of IT, optimize technology across the Museum to increase organizational efficiency, improve information accessibility, and ensure data security;
- with the Director, Human Resources, oversee human resources management—including recruiting and retention, compensation and benefits, employee and labor relations, and training and development; and
- report to the Board of Trustees, government agencies, and other external stakeholders on areas of operational significance.

Leadership and Relationship Management

The Chief Operating Officer will

- lead, mentor, empower, delegate to, and evaluate the performance of a diverse team of professional and technical staff—listening to their ideas, understanding their strengths, and encouraging each individual's professional growth; and
- promote a culture of respect that rewards collaboration, learning, accountability, and initiative.

LEADERSHIP

Claudia Gould

Helen Goldsmith Menschel Director

Claudia Gould became the Jewish Museum's Helen Goldsmith Menschel Director in early 2012. As a curator and museum director, she has been noted for her commitment to outstanding original programming and an expansive interdisciplinary approach to exhibitions, education, and public outreach. Prior to joining the Jewish Museum, Gould was Daniel W. Dietrich II Director of the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia from 1999 to 2011. She served as Executive Director of Artists Space, the landmark New York City alternative exhibition space, from 1994 to 1999, and was the first Curator of Exhibitions at the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, Ohio. She has also been an independent curator of numerous international contemporary art installations.

Darsie Alexander

Senior Deputy Director and Susan and Elihu Rose Chief Curator

Darsie Alexander is the Senior Deputy Director and Susan and Elihu Rose Chief Curator at the Jewish Museum. Previously she held curatorial positions at the Walker Art Center, Baltimore Museum of Art, and The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Most recently she served as Executive Director of the Katonah Museum of Art in Westchester County, New York. Alexander has curated numerous exhibitions focusing on postwar American and European art, notably *Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art* (2021); *International Pop* (2015-2016); *The Spectacular of Vernacular* (2011); *Franz West, To Build a House You Start with the Roof: Work, 1972-2008* (2008); and *SlideShow* (2005). She maintains an interest in interdisciplinary practice stemming from her work on the Merce Cunningham Dance Archive. Alexander has served on various boards and foundation panels. She is a graduate of Bates College and earned her graduate degree from Williams College.

PREFERRED COMPETENCIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Jewish Museum seeks a Chief Operating Officer with

- a commitment to, and intellectual curiosity about, the mission of the Jewish Museum—to illuminate the complexity and vibrancy of Jewish culture for a global audience;
- sophisticated financial acumen, at both a comprehensive and granular level, with a proven ability to deliver measurable outcomes;
- an ability to build and refine systems that enable efficient budgeting, financial controls and quality, and timely reporting;
- strong analytical and financial modeling skills, as well as knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for non-profits, and philanthropic financial management;
- knowledge of non-profit governance, including experience interfacing with governing boards, and a deep understanding of mission-driven organizations;
- a track record of strong leadership and collaborative management skills that have influenced business culture;
- the initiative needed to take on new projects and to strive for continual improvement;
- unquestioned integrity, ethics, and values;
- creativity, and the ability to think conceptually and analytically; and
- a sense of humor and a sense of joy in one's work, as well as a calm, yet authoritative, demeanor.

A bachelor's degree is required for this position as is at least ten years of financial and administrative management experience, with at least five of those years being at a senior managerial level.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

The salary range for this position is \$275,000 to \$325,000 annually. The Jewish Museum offers a comprehensive package of benefits.

LOCATION

The Jewish Museum is housed in the Warburg Mansion on New York City's Museum Mile. The Chief Operating Officer should reside within commuting distance to the Museum, with in-person office hours four days each week.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All applications must be accompanied by a cover letter and résumé. ***Cover letters should be responsive to the mission of the Jewish Museum and the responsibilities and qualifications presented in the prospectus.*** Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the successful candidate has been selected.

To apply for this position, visit:

[Chief Operating Officer, The Jewish Museum.](#)

To nominate a candidate, please contact Ron Schiller, ronschiller@aspenleadershipgroup.com or Ashley Buderus, ashleybuderus@aspenleadershipgroup.com.

All inquiries will be held in confidence.