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## **We are hiring extraordinary talent!**

### **Executive Director (full-time), Paradise Garden Foundation**

#### **Howard Finster & Paradise Garden Overview**

Renowned folk artist Howard Finster (1916-2001), assembled Paradise Garden, an art environment near the northwest Georgia town of Summerville, which became his greatest creation and most important legacy. Starting at the age 59, Finster painted more than 46,000 colorful works of art filled with historical figures and pop icons. Finster earned national fame when rock band R.E.M. filmed the Radio Free Europe video in Paradise Garden and he later won Rolling Stones magazine album cover of the year for Talking Head's *Little Creatures*. Finster's art is in the permanent collection of many museums across the US. The irrepressible artist was also a guest on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*.

Many critics consider Paradise Garden to be Howard Finster's most important creation, which started as a roadside park in the 1960's. In the fall of 2011, Chattooga County purchased Paradise Garden with the goal of not only preserving Finster's international legacy but as importantly using the legacy to garner economic development and set a vision of a prosperous future for the county. Today, Paradise Garden is an economic engine for Chattooga County – the most economically disadvantaged county in the Appalachian region. The Garden is listed on the National Historic Registry and treasured by 10,000+ national and international visitors annually.

#### **Paradise Garden Foundation Mission**

The Paradise Garden Foundation's (PGF) mission is to preserve, maintain, and showcase Rev. Howard Finster's visionary artistic site, Paradise Garden. PGF's primary goal is to serve as a social, cultural, educational, and artistic nexus for the benefit of Chattooga Co. and the N.W. Georgia region while also continuing to serve Finster's mission to spread the message and vision for his garden to people worldwide. As such, PGF will foster regional economic development via tourism, public service, and creative enterprise, each of which adheres to Finster's vision for his garden.

#### **Executive Director Position**

The executive director will be the visionary leader of Paradise Garden. The ideal candidate will be self-motivated, have a passion for the arts & culture, and have exceptional communication, planning and organizational skills. He or she will have demonstrated success in achieving goals and an ability to envision new avenues of support and provide strategic leadership.

S/he will lead the overall operations, development, staffing, marketing, programming, fundraising, special events, financial management, grant cultivation, restoration, and public relations for Paradise Garden. Top priorities include:

- Developing and managing donor relationships locally, regionally, and nationally.
- Implementing Paradise Garden's strategic plan, which includes measurable goals and objectives for economic sustainability.
- Recruiting and managing the Foundation Board of Directors and the regional and national advisory board.
- Leading restoration and revitalization efforts for the garden buildings, sculptures, and grounds.
- Representing Paradise Garden in local and regional community, nationally, and internationally art and academic events.
- Managing the finances, business, and operations using standard business practices with full business and financial disclosure to the PGF executive board.
- Develop and implement fundraising strategies including major donor development and gift planning, annual giving and year-end giving campaign, membership, grant funding, visitor gate and Airbnb revenue and fundraising events such as FinsterFest successfully reaching a \$240,000+ fundraising goal for the annual operating budget.
- Lead, coach, develop, and retain high-performance staff. Hire, supervise and evaluate staff. Ensure effective systems to track scaling progress, and regularly evaluate program components, so as to measure successes that can be effectively communicated to the board, funders, and other constituents.
- Implement the strategic plan, annual budget, and associated action plans in conjunction with the board.
- Develop, implement and supervise programs and services that are consistent with the organization's mission, strategic plan and annual budget.

- Build partnerships and establish relationships with the funders, and political and community leaders. Develop effective working relationship within the community to strengthen the programming, raise visibility and awareness and increase funding opportunities.
- Assist with community leadership in Chattooga County, and Southeast region.

## Qualifications

*Potential candidates must possess the following:*

- Bachelor's degree or related work experience preferably in nonprofit management, corporate, communications, marketing, public relations, development or a related field.
- Five+ years of proven development experience and/or Board of Director experience.
- Demonstrated success and evidence of ability to plan and execute a fundraising/donor campaign with multiple priorities from various funding streams including major gifts, corporate, foundation, and annual support and fundraising events.
- Excellence in organizational management with the ability to coach staff, manage, and develop high-performance teams, set and achieve strategic objectives, and manage a budget
- Working knowledge of non-profit management, governance and fiscal processes.
- Proficient in technology, and fundraising databases.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills.
- Strong entrepreneurial spirit and ability to juggle several projects simultaneously.
- Experience in effectively engaging and leading staff and board members in cultivation, solicitation and stewardship activities.
- Exceptional communication and presentation skills, with proven ability to write effectively and speak persuasively. Public speaking engagements and presentations.
- Commitment to ethical fundraising practices.
- Willingness to work occasional evenings and weekends for donor activities and events. Monthly travel to Paradise Garden in Summerville GA and travel to art and funder conferences and summits as needed and budgeted. Southeast regional travel using personal car.

*Potential candidates would do well to possess:*

- Knowledge of the regional area philanthropic and art community.
- Intellectual agility, high professional standards, and demonstrated ability to think creatively, strategically, and execute on multiple priorities simultaneously.
- Experience in the arts or cultural fields.

## Compensation and Benefits

- A competitive salary with 3 weeks personal time off (PTO includes all leave including sick leave, vacation, and personal leave). Monthly health insurance contribution of \$200 to use toward a personal health insurance plan.

## To Apply

Send a cover letter with salary history and resume to Paradise Garden, Attention Executive Director Search, 200 North Lewis Street, Summerville, GA 30747 for review. **No phone calls or drop-ins please.** Deadline to submit cover letter and resume is **Friday, November 17, 2017.** Executive Director search is inclusive to all locations where donor development and funding resources are maximized.

The Paradise Garden is an equal opportunity employer.