

**The Garden Conservancy  
Garrison, New York**

**Director of Public Programs and Education**

*The mission of the Garden Conservancy is to preserve, share, and celebrate  
America's gardens and diverse gardening traditions  
for the education and inspiration of the public.*

The Garden Conservancy, a national nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to preserving, enabling public access to and community use of, and raising awareness of America's gardens, seeks a Director of Public Programs and Education. The Garden Conservancy champions the vital role that gardens play in America's history, culture, and quality of life. It partners with gardeners, horticulturists, and community organizers across America to preserve historic and significant gardens; since its founding in 1989, the Conservancy has helped more than 100 gardens survive and prosper as resources for their communities. Since 1995, the Conservancy's signature educational program, Open Days, has also enabled more than 1.35 million visitors to connect with nature and to be inspired by the creativity of more than 4,000 private gardens in 41 states. The organization's 2020-25 Strategic Plan calls for the further development of Open Days as the major gateway program for public engagement with the Conservancy.

Reporting directly to the President, the Director of Public Programs and Educations will be an ambassador for Open Days and for all other educational programs, both in-person and virtual, while creating, updating, and overseeing a calendar of public activities to support the Garden Conservancy's mission, sharing ideas and information about gardens and gardening with audiences throughout the United States. The Director will oversee the extension, enhancement, and regularization of Open Days, America's only national garden-visiting program. Other educational programs (currently the Garden Masters Series, Digging Deeper, national speaker series, symposia, and virtual programs) engage authorities in garden design, garden history, horticulture, preservation, and sustainability in presenting high-quality educational and programmatic outreach nationwide to the public, the Conservancy's Society of Fellows, and its general membership. These programs explore topics related to garden design, garden history, preservation, horticulture, and sustainability in a variety of settings and formats and using a variety of tools, including online content. The Garden Conservancy's educational programming aims to engage audiences and generate awareness of and interest in the Conservancy's work. Accordingly, educational programs and events will be designed to reflect and promote the goals and mission of the Garden Conservancy, to encourage engagement in and support for its work, and to support the recruitment and retention of the Conservancy's regular membership and Fellows.

The Director will work closely with the Director of Development in developing improved programmatic and educational benefits for the Garden Conservancy's sustainer, partner, and champion-level members, while also stewarding the Society of Fellows, a committed group who support the Garden Conservancy's mission at a higher membership level. The

Director will collaborate with The Garden Conservancy's Preservation Department to develop new programming aimed at preservation partner gardens and professionals in the field of preservation. The Director is a member of the senior staff of eight at the Conservancy and is a working manager, overseeing and supporting all logistics relating to programmatic and educational event marketing, promotion, registration, and execution, including volunteer support.

The Director will supervise one indirect and two direct professional reports and manage a \$475,000 department budget. The Director will be based at the Garden Conservancy's headquarters in Garrison, NY (50 miles north of New York City), with regular national and occasional international travel.

**Qualifications:** The Garden Conservancy seeks an erudite, affable, charismatic, and hands-on educator with at least eight years of programmatic and donor and volunteer management experience. Candidates should demonstrate an appreciation that gardens are cultural artifacts of merit, and have an interest (or, better, expertise) in garden design, horticulture, and/or preservation. Demonstrated proficiency in timely project management, in working with and empowering a voluntary board, in strategic planning, audience development, organizational capacity building, and sustainability, are essential. The ability to communicate clearly in written, electronic, and spoken public communication is necessary. An earned baccalaureate degree is required.

Review of candidate materials will begin immediately and continue until the appointment. A complete application will include a letter of interest, a curriculum vitae or résumé, and contact information for five professional referees who can speak about the candidate's qualifications for this specific opportunity. Expressions of interest, applications, nominations, and inquiries should be directed to the Garden Conservancy's search consultant, Chuck O'Boyle of C. V. O'Boyle, Jr., LLC, at [chuck@cvoboyale.com](mailto:chuck@cvoboyale.com), who will furnish a detailed specification and an internal job description upon request. All communications will be held in confidence and referees will not be contacted without the candidate's prior consent. The Garden Conservancy is an equal-opportunity employer, committed to principles of affirmative action in its recruiting and hiring practices.