



NASHER MUSEUM OF ART AT DUKE UNIVERSITY

Mary D. B. T. and James H. Semans Director

The Mary D.B.T. and James H. Semans Director of the Nasher Museum of Art reports to the Provost and, as its chief executive, is responsible for the museum's artistic excellence and intellectual direction. The museum promotes engagement with the visual arts among a broad community, including Duke students, faculty and staff, the greater Durham community, the Triangle region, and the national and international art community.

In the 14 years since its opening, more than one million people have visited the Nasher. The museum's operating budget is almost \$6 million with a staff of 40. The museum's thoughtful investment in its close relationship with both Duke and Durham are deeply appreciated and are expected to continue. The location of the museum allows for both audiences to share a sense of ownership in the museum. The comprehensive collection offers numerous opportunities for creative collaboration across campus and with public schools, even as the museum remains perhaps best known for its modern and contemporary art programming. Though the university and the community will remain the top priority of the incoming Director and staff, aspirations for international collaborations and a varied program of traveling shows are a priority.

The Nasher benefits from a very supportive relationship with university administration. As of July, 2019, the Nasher's endowment is nearly \$45 million.

The Nasher Museum welcomes about 5,300 Duke students each year to study the collections, participate in [MUSE](#) conversations, tour the galleries, attend Nasher Study Hall events and attend First Art Night, which is part of orientation week for first-year students. An institution known for its structural support for interdisciplinary scholarship, the Nasher enthusiastically partners with faculty and classes from more than 42 departments across campus. Student-curated exhibitions both in collaboration with faculty and independently in collaboration with museum staff have been a highlight of the institution's undertaking.

From July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, the museum presented six major exhibitions and seven special gallery exhibitions, acquired 272 works of art, and hosted 29 visual artists for public talks and demonstrations. More than 6,000 visitors (including school children) came on tours with visitors coming from every state in the United States, as well as Guam and Puerto Rico, and from 40 different countries.

The Nasher enjoys the engaged support of four advisory boards: faculty, student, community and national. The Director reports to the Provost, yet works closely with these four affinity groups.

The museum presents an ambitious schedule of exhibitions that travel to major institutions around the world, and has a growing collection of international contemporary art.

As leader of the museum, the Director is responsible for the following specific activities:

COLLECTIONS AND PROGRAMMING

The Director possesses the expertise, experience and networks to initiate or attract the best possible programming, acquisitions and talent to the museum. The Director will maintain and exemplify best practices to the benefit of not only the museum and the university, but also for the region through international audiences it engages.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Director is responsible to the Provost for ongoing strategic planning for the museum. Through this planning, the Director develops a long-range vision, specific strategies and detailed administrative and fiscal provisions to ensure the excellence of the museum's acquisitions and its teaching, research, and outreach programs and the diversity of its staff. In exercising this planning leadership, the Director works closely with the Provost. The Director also works with the chairs of other departments and deans of schools to develop and promote strategic initiatives.

BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT

The Director is responsible to the Provost for all aspects of the museum's budget, consistent with the university's management center budget system. In addition to budgetary oversight, the other principal areas of administrative responsibility include the development of exhibitions, acquisition of works of art, educational activities, conservation, publications, development of electronic resources, and special programs and events, as well as responsibility for non-faculty staffing decisions within the context of university-wide policies and procedures.

DEVELOPMENT

The Director has primary responsibility for raising new financial resources for the museum. This responsibility includes articulating its development needs in conjunction with the museum's long-range plans, leadership of the overall development effort in the museum and active personal engagement in fundraising. The Director works with the Provost, President and the University Development Office in planning university-wide fundraising priorities and goals and cooperates with the University Development staff in executing those plans. The Director maintains and establishes regular contact with current and potential individual donors, foundations, and government agencies and leads the activities of the museum's Board of Advisors, Friends Board, Student Advisory Board and Faculty Advisory Committee.

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

The Director will ensure the museum's active involvement in the development of the long-range strategic plans, major budgetary priorities, and other important activities and issues that affect its wellbeing and its place in the university. The Director is a member of the Council for the Arts and may also be appointed to other university committees as the representative of the Nasher Museum.

In order to succeed in these primary tasks, the Director must be:

- An intellectual leader, who can be expected to have the highest aspirations in art acquisition and exhibition, with extensive contacts throughout the art world in order to attract high-quality traveling exhibitions that would appeal to a diverse student body and community;
- An energetic and conscientious administrator broadly familiar with issues in the integration of the arts in a university setting to enhance the educational experience of Duke's students and the research and teaching opportunities of the faculty;
- An individual with experience in the management of complex institutions, ideally directing a museum or in curatorial leadership at the highest level;
- An advocate for the Nasher Museum of Art and its mission, in the service of the university's strategic priority of promoting the arts and to its broader strategic commitments to interdisciplinary study, internationalization and putting its knowledge at the service of society;
- An excellent communicator who can effectively convey the work of the museum to Duke and external communities;
- A proponent for developing a diverse staff;
- An effective fundraiser;
- A preeminent university citizen;
- Work requires communications, analytical and organizational skills generally acquired through completion of a Master's degree. The successful candidate will be an accomplished professional or scholar in the arts, with at least five years of experience in either an academic or professional arts setting. A doctorate in art history is a significant advantage, but not a requirement.

Duke University has retained the executive search and leadership advisory firm Spencer Stuart to support it in the search for the next director of the Nasher Museum of Art. Qualified individuals who wish to submit their own application materials should send a substantive letter of application that addresses the specifics of the position, a curriculum vitae, samples of written work and/or production relevant to this position (e.g. grant narratives, catalogs, portfolios of installments), and a statement of leadership philosophy to NasherMuseum@SpencerStuart.com. If you wish to nominate a candidate for this position, please send an email message with supporting materials to NasherMuseum@SpencerStuart.com.

DUKE UNIVERSITY AND DURHAM, NC

Duke University is internationally known as a premier institution of higher learning recognized for its research, teaching, service, and global presence. Duke's campus includes more than 8,000 acres, of which 7,000 comprise the [Duke Forest](#), and also the [Duke Marine Lab](#) in Beaufort, NC. The university is composed of 10 schools: Trinity College of Arts & Sciences, Pratt School of

Engineering, Fuqua School of Business, Divinity School, Nicholas School of the Environment, The Graduate School, School of Law, Sanford School of Public Policy, and Schools of Medicine and Nursing. Duke's student body of approximately 15,900 students includes almost 7,000 undergraduate students and about 8,900 graduate and professional students. The university includes two distinct campuses. West Campus, with Duke Chapel as its focal point, is home to the central administration building, Perkins, Rubenstein and Bostock Libraries, and teaching and research space for several humanities departments, all of the social sciences, and the biological and natural sciences. The graduate and professional schools are also located on West Campus. Residential quadrangles house most upper-class students, and there are numerous dining, recreational, and social spaces. East Campus houses all first-year undergraduate students as well as teaching and research facilities for the arts, most humanities, and other departments. Between the two campuses, planning is underway for new construction and utilization of the land that had previously housed Central Campus. The Duke University Medical Center is located on the northern edge of West Campus, with the School of Nursing nearby.

Duke University is located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and diverse city of approximately 260,000 that also is home to North Carolina Central University (NCCU). Durham is part of a metropolitan area of about 1.7 million known as the Research Triangle, which also includes Chapel Hill, home of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH), and Raleigh, the state capital and home of North Carolina State University (NCSU). The Triangle is consistently ranked as one of the country's best places to live, with a moderate climate, a diverse and educated population, and a rich array of cultural, recreational and athletic opportunities. The nationally recognized redevelopment of downtown Durham – with old tobacco warehouses converted to offices, retail, restaurants and residential units – has made the city a magnet for entrepreneurs, artists and innovators from around the world.

Duke University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer committed to providing employment opportunity without regard to an individual's age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Duke aspires to create a community built on collaboration, innovation, creativity, and belonging. Our collective success depends on the robust exchange of ideas – an exchange that is best when the rich diversity of our perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences flourishes. To achieve this exchange, it is essential that all members of the community feel secure and welcome, that the contributions of all individuals are respected, and that all voices are heard. All members of our community have a responsibility to uphold these values.