

# SculptureCenter

## Director

### MISSION

*SculptureCenter leads the conversation on contemporary art by supporting artistic innovation and independent thought highlighting sculpture's specific potential to change the way we engage with the world. Positioning artists' work in larger cultural, historical, and aesthetic contexts, SculptureCenter discerns and interprets emerging ideas. Founded by artists in 1928, SculptureCenter provides an international forum that connects artists and audiences by presenting exhibitions, commissioning new work, and generating scholarship.*

### THE ORGANIZATION

Taking the history and legacy of sculpture as its foundation, SculptureCenter's programs explore and reflect the current concerns of and around contemporary art. As a non-collecting museum, SculptureCenter introduces emerging artists and commissions major work of the highest quality in New York, providing direct support to the artists for its creation, including production funds, training, curatorial support, and honoraria. SculptureCenter is frequently the first institution, or the first one in the United States, to present an artist's work, often launching her or his career.

SculptureCenter's annual exhibition program includes: one or two commissioned works by mid-career artists; the annual In Practice open call program featuring new commissions by 10 to 15 emerging artists; and three to six solo and group exhibitions. These occur in its wholly owned 8,000-square-foot space converted by Maya Lin in 2000 from a former trolley repair factory. To facilitate deep public engagement and encourage dialogue between visitors of all ages and artists and their work, SculptureCenter hosts free events and programs that complement its exhibitions, including lectures, panel discussions, readings, video screenings, performances, and special public and educational programs.

In fiscal year 2018, SculptureCenter presented five critically acclaimed exhibitions, a choreographic work, and a public art installation showcasing 29 artists, including: the first institutional survey exhibition of Nicola L.; the first solo institutional presentation of Kelly Akashi; the first New York City solo museum exhibition of Carissa Rodriguez; the debut of a new commission by choreographer Moriah Evans; *In Practice: Another Echo*, featuring new commissions by 12 emerging artists and artist teams as part of its annual open call program; *74 million million million tons* – a group exhibition co-curated by Ruba Katrib and Lawrence Abu Hamdan; and a public art installation by Xaviera Simmons, commissioned through SculptureCenter's annual Public Process program.



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A \$1.7 million organization, SculptureCenter has a full- and part-time staff of 13 and a 22-member Board of Trustees. For more information, please visit [www.sculpture-center.org](http://www.sculpture-center.org).

### **THE PERSON**

SculptureCenter seeks a Director who is:

- An artistic visionary with deep relationships within the contemporary art community, able to take well-considered, tenable risks to continue the groundbreaking leadership in identifying and launching artists in the United States and internationally;
- An entrepreneurial leader with powerful interpersonal skills; someone who can inspire internally and externally, collaborate, mentor, and delegate;
- A willing, talented, and tested fundraiser who is comfortable asking for money and who has the ability to build and steward relationships with the Board and beyond;
- A compelling and effective communicator capable of persuasively positioning the sometimes-challenging issues often inherent in contemporary art;
- A self-starter undaunted by a lean institution and effective under pressure, with strong organizational skills and a proven ability to focus and prioritize;
- Administratively adept; able to lead, organize, and support a staff, manage a Board and budget, and liaise with peer and funding entities; capable of developing and achieving sustainable operational and financial strategies that can support operations and the pursuit of new initiatives;
- Able to harness information technology to support operations, exhibitions, and artists;
- The holder of appropriate academic credentials at least partially in the arts.

### **THE POSITION**

On an ongoing basis, the Director will:

- Develop, in close cooperation with the curatorial team, rigorous and critically acclaimed exhibitions, public programs, and events that maintain and expand SculptureCenter's position as one of the leading contemporary art institutions in the United States and internationally;



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- Take a leadership role in the regional, national, and international art communities to insist on the crucial contribution of art and arts organizations in sustaining a healthy and diverse society;
- Evaluate fundraising efforts to date; conceive of new revenue streams including earned, sponsorship, and foundation support; in partnership with the Director of Advancement and Board, help propel fundraising efforts to significantly increase private support for SculptureCenter's exhibitions, programming, and operations;
- Oversee SculptureCenter's financial operations; develop its budget; ensure that staff and programming keep within the allocated financial resources; manage cash flows; provide the Board with timely financial data for budgeting decisions and fundraising plans;
- Maximize the resources and impact of SculptureCenter by engaging in cooperative programming and joint ventures with other institutions locally, nationally, and abroad; and encourage programmatic innovation;
- Maintain long-term relationships with exhibited artists, connecting them to the SculptureCenter community;
- Supervise a motivated staff, maintaining morale and providing direction; delegate specific responsibilities and appropriate authority, holding individuals accountable for specific and collective performance;
- Cultivate, solicit, and steward new and existing members of the Board; clearly communicate expectations and opportunities and hold members accountable to commitments on SculptureCenter's behalf; identify opportunities to engage the Board as ambassadors to raise awareness of SculptureCenter activities;
- Plan and oversee the maintenance of SculptureCenter's physical plant.

*Please send applications or nominations to Sarah James and Becky Klein at [SculptureCenter@PhillipsOppenheim.com](mailto:SculptureCenter@PhillipsOppenheim.com).*

SculptureCenter  
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