Fernwood Executive Director Position

Fernwood Botanical Garden is a special place where people, plants, and nature come together. Beautiful gardens surrounded by forest are tucked into a landscape of 105 acres of cultivated and natural areas along the scenic St. Joseph River Valley. Miles of trails await, and indoors, visits may enjoy an art gallery, fern conservatory, Education Center, café, and gift shop. Fernwood offers many possibilities for learning and enrichment, including classes, workshops, lectures, concerts, trips, exhibits and special events.

Fernwood is a private, not-for-profit institution. More than 2,500 members and friends help make Fernwood the special place that it is through their donations of money and service. Fernwood is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Executive Director (ED) has responsibility for the overall management of the Garden. The ED provides leadership and direction to further the organization's mission and vision to become a leading botanical institution. This leader will be responsible for setting the priorities and strategy to maintain and build upon the Garden’s vision and strategic plan. This leader will interact regularly with the Board, lead and manage staff and will serve as the primary face of the Garden with regard to donors, partners and the general public. The ED oversees and directs the Garden including budgeting, strategic planning, proper maintenance of gardens, grounds and buildings, educational programming, membership development, marketing and public relations, sponsorships, grants and fundraising.

Specific experience with public gardens is not a requirement but desired. An affinity and passion for the mission of public gardens must be demonstrated. Senior-level leadership in a destination-type venue that aspires to deliver an extraordinary visitor experience is highly desirable.

A strong connection to the community is preferred; the ability to quickly build and maintain personal and professional relationships within the community is required.

A master’s degree and 10+ years’ experience in the nonprofit cultural field, including government, business management or administrative experience, is preferred.

To apply, please submit a current resume to: Executive Director (filefinder.online)