



Senior Vice President of Finance

Forest Park Forever is a private, nonprofit conservancy that works in partnership with the City of St. Louis and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry to restore, maintain and sustain world-class Forest Park as one of America's great urban public parks for a diverse community of visitors to enjoy. They have led major fundraising efforts to restore many landmark destinations in Forest Park, including the Emerson Grand Basin, the Boathouse and the Jewel Box. In 2017, the organization completed a major fundraising campaign securing \$139 million for Park restoration projects and an expanded endowment.

Today, Forest Park Forever maintains Forest Park with the City of St. Louis; raises funds for and helps manage capital restoration projects; delivers experiential educational opportunities; and provides information and guides for the Park's 13 million annual visitors.

Since Forest Park Forever is not part of the Zoo-Museum Tax District, it is supported by private donations from throughout the community, including its 8,000 members, 1,300 volunteers and many leading community and corporate partners.

Due to the organization's successful growth and to strengthen its leadership team, Forest Park Forever is now seeking to hire an entrepreneurial and strategic Senior Vice President of Finance. As a key part of the senior leadership team, this position will lead the financial aspects of the growth and continued revitalization of the organization and its multi-million dollar operating and capital budget, have financial accountability, as well as oversee investment management, endowment and capital project planning. This executive will communicate and work closely with Board leadership and senior staff to implement the organization's strategic plan. As a senior leader in the organization, this role will build relationships with key constituents including banking, investment management, major donors, government officials, the Board and critical vendors and serve as the primary staff lead for three board committees.

Reporting to the President & Executive Director, the successful candidate will:

PROVIDE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP: Serve as a key advisor to the President & Executive Director and as a valued member of the organization's senior leadership team. Collaborate with the President and senior leadership on providing direction for the organization and its strategic goals. Participate in the continuous evaluation of short- and long-term strategic planning, objectives and introduction of new programs. Serve as a key interface and communicate regularly with staff, the Board of Directors and board committees, financial institutions,

auditors, investment advisors, third-party service providers and all other outside stakeholders as necessary. Work closely with the President & Executive Director to build the relationship with the City as part of the Public-Private Partnership model that supports the Park.

FINANCIAL AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING: Manage an annual budget in excess of \$10MM, a capital budget that varies by year, and a large endowment investment portfolio (\$160MM) to help ensure that the organization's strategic initiatives are being met. Ensure the preparation and accuracy of monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports. Prepare and monitor the annual budget for management in conjunction with the Finance and Audit Committees of the Board of Directors and in accordance with accounting standards and guidelines. Manage overall financial accounting systems and processes for the organization, with consideration for maintaining strong internal controls. Ensure timely completion of the annual audit. Ensure the investment policy is adhered to and oversee investment advisors in conjunction with the Investment Committee. Forecast cash flow needs of the organization and recommend strategies to achieve annual and capital targets.

REVENUE GENERATION: Monitor all earned revenue in the park and work with the City of St. Louis to maximize this resource. **Assist Development Department in** researching and coordinating applications for other earned revenue opportunities including local, state and federal funds, tax credits and tax support.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING: Identify and assess potential opportunities and risks across the organization. Develop and implement strategies to mitigate risks. Maintain appropriate insurance coverages for the organization, including identifying and building relationships with vendors, administering and assessing the insurance programs, and negotiating contracts.

OVERSEE ALL TECHNOLOGY FUNCTIONS: Establish technology standards, security protocols and assess related training requirements; manage the IT services contract.

LEAD THE FINANCE TEAM: Recruit, train, supervise and evaluate department staff. Establish objectives and define results required for direct reports in support of the strategic business goals. Coach, inspire and enable staff to effectively perform and work with other departments.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in finance, accounting, business, non-profit management or a related field is required. MBA or an advanced degree is highly desirable. CPA a plus.
- At least 10 years of progressive finance experience in a nonprofit, corporate, entrepreneurial or venture capital environment. Must have a solid background effectively managing financial aspects of an organization. Nonprofit accounting experience preferred.

- Strong management skills with a successful track record in attracting and retaining top talent and building a solid team.
- Exposure to non-profit and/or government agencies. Must be comfortable in a role with public interaction.
- Familiarity with budgeting and cost accounting. Thorough knowledge of accounting principles is required. Must be able to prepare and analyze budgets and financial statements.
- Experience working with and presenting to board of directors and board committees.
- Experience in a dynamic and fast-growth environment.
- Strong computer skills including proficiency in Microsoft Office software.

Other Skills & Abilities

- Must be an innovative and entrepreneurial leader able to develop and implement sound strategies.
- Diplomatic with the ability to negotiate in a complex, public atmosphere.
- Strong analytical and decision-making skills.
- Excellent communication skills, unquestionable character and background, and a real command presence are mandatory. Must possess the ability to communicate effectively and tactfully with a wide variety of constituents.
- Must like collaborating with people and having a hands-on approach to creating success. The ability to engage a wide variety of people to join the effort is imperative.
- Must be personally accountable for deadlines and goals.
- Excellent personal organizational skills with the ability to effectively prioritize and direct the flow of multiple projects and tasks simultaneously.
- Strong eye for continuous improvement with ability to make solid recommendations and plans to improve quality and productivity.
- Must be able to effectively represent the organization and reflect organizational values. Passion for our mission and desire to go above and beyond to fulfill the position and make an overall contribution to the organization.

Ready to Apply?

If you are interested and qualified and ready to take the next step, apply on-line at [jobs.getcollaborative](https://jobs.getcollaborative.com). All inquiries and resume submissions will be treated as strictly confidential. Please do not contact Forest Park Forever directly. Should you experience difficulties with the online system or wish to ask a question, you may contact our search consulting firm, Collaborative Strategies, via email at application@csi-mail.com.

Collaborative Strategies, Inc. is a St. Louis-based consulting firm with a dedicated search practice and has been connecting talent with opportunity since 1994. We take pride in matching talented leaders seeking mission-critical endeavors with entrepreneurial organizations such as Forest Park Forever. For more information, visit us at www.getcollaborative.com. To view our job board, visit jobs.getcollaborative.com.

| Forest Park Forever Maintains a Drug Free Workplace and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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