



## POSITION GUIDE

<b>ORGANIZATION:</b>	<b>John J. Tyler Arboretum</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Executive Director</b>
<b>REPORTS TO:</b>	<b>Board of Trustees</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Media, Pennsylvania</b>

### **MISSION**

The mission of Tyler Arboretum is to preserve, develop and share our diverse horticultural, historical and natural site resources in order to stimulate stewardship and understanding of our living world.

### **VISION**

We will create a unique horticultural and environmental destination that reconnects individuals with nature and provides knowledge and inspiration to help them reduce their environmental impact.

### **ABOUT TYLER ARBORETUM**

The Tyler Arboretum is a nonprofit public garden in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, serving the Greater Philadelphia region. One of the oldest arboreta in the northeastern United States, it encompasses 100 acres of renowned plant collections, heritage and champion trees, and historic buildings enclosed by a deer fence and 550 acres of woodlands, wetlands, meadows and stream valleys connected by 17 miles of hiking trails.

In 1681 Thomas Minshall, an English Quaker, purchased the property from William Penn that the Arboretum now occupies. Between 1681 and 1944, the property was owned by eight generations of the same Minshall/Painter/Tyler

family. Until 1944, it was a working farm and served as a summer residence for the Tyler family.

The Arboretum itself began as the private collection of two brothers, Jacob and Minshall Painter. The brothers were fascinated by the popular 19th century study of natural history. During their lifetimes, they managed to amass large collections of dried plants, rocks, and other specimens. In 1825, the brothers set aside some of their land to begin the systematic planting of more than 1,000 varieties of trees and shrubs.

In 1944, Laura Tyler, a direct descendant of Thomas Minshall, bequeathed the property to a Board of Trustees that had been established to direct and oversee the land as an arboretum. Dr. John Casper Wister, Tyler Arboretum's first director, was considered by many to be one of the great American horticultural figures of the 20th century. He set out to build upon the Painter legacy, whereupon he created comprehensive collections representing conifers, magnolias, lilacs, hollies, narcissus, peonies and rhododendrons.

Today, Tyler fulfills its mission through high quality adult and children educational programs, extensive horticultural collections and displays, preservation of its historic buildings and stewardship of its 650 acres. Tyler borders the 2,600 acre Ridley Creek State Park. Tyler's current annual operating budget is \$ 1.3 million.

## **THE OPPORTUNITY**

The Board of Trustees adopted Tyler's current master site plan in 2008. Four core concepts or pillars were identified which form the foundation for reaching its full potential.

- 1) Establish the Arboretum as a premiere regional attraction by creating new and enhanced exhibits and expanding visitor services.
- 2) Preserve the Arboretum's lands and historic legacy for future generations.
- 3) Strengthen the connection between people and nature through learning and inspiration.
- 4) Restore and protect our natural resource through best management practices.

Numerous specific projects are designed and/or in process to date. To tie the various exhibits together and create a site that is diverse yet accessible, the plan calls for the completion of a pervious macadam Scenic Loop that enables visitors of all physical abilities to enjoy an array of natural experiences. Additionally, a thematic reorganization of the historic buildings is planned that will allow visitors to interpret and experience the historic landscape as a whole. Designing stronger educational components in Lenape Village, the Teaching Garden and in a new and extensive Edible Garden are also envisioned. Tyler is also considering the construction of an all season pavilion to supplement the

indoor space in the barn for educational purposes and catered events. Additionally, the Pink Hill Restoration project, a serpentine barren ecosystem, is fully funded and “shovel ready”. These ambitious but achievable goals will require expanded fundraising capacity led by the Executive Director, Board of Trustees and staff.

## **CANDIDATE PROFILE**

We seek a proven leader who can demonstrate a successful career of consistently moving nonprofit organizations forward in pursuit of their vision. This individual would bring leadership characterized by an ability to garner broad constituent support, develop and empower staff, increase visibility of the organization and carry forward major projects and programs. We seek a leader who is an exceptional relationship builder whose passion is evident by his or her ability to clearly and enthusiastically articulate the organization’s vision to members, donors, elected officials and other stakeholders.

An affinity for the mission of horticultural and historical properties as represented by public gardens and museums must be evident, as well as knowledge of best practices and new trends in the management of cultural resources. Of critical importance is the candidate’s ability to transform ideas into specific, goal-driven project outcomes. Solid, demonstrated skills in operations and business management are expected. Strategic decision making in project prioritization, from basic infrastructure improvements to large-scale programmatic initiatives, is essential to successfully carrying out the job.

Given the capital and annual fundraising requirements to implement the master site plan, we seek a candidate who has a proven track record in obtaining major individual gifts, corporate sponsorships, foundation grant support and government contracts. Such skills will also be required in assisting the Trustees to develop a high-powered Board devoting its time, talent and treasure. Prior experience in overseeing design, construction and management of large scale public projects would be a plus.

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university is required; a master's degree is preferred. Affiliation with local, state or national professional or trade associations related to Tyler’s mission is expected.

Applications for the position are being received exclusively by Kittleman & Associates, LLC. Please send a letter of introduction and a current resume to [resumes@kittleman.net](mailto:resumes@kittleman.net)

For more information about Tyler Arboretum, please visit their website at [www.tylerarboretum.org](http://www.tylerarboretum.org)