



DOWNTOWN AUSTIN ALLIANCE

A Vision and a Voice for Downtown

About the Downtown Austin Alliance

It is an exciting time to be in downtown Austin. At the same time that many of the nation's cities are facing modest to substantial economic downturns, the outlook for Downtown Austin is quite favorable. Austin is "hot." It is anticipated that the downtown area will continue to enjoy increasing vitality and prosperity – expansion of retail, office, and residential uses, more art and entertainment, more beautiful outdoor spaces – development and redevelopment that is appropriate to its unique characteristics. The rate of growth may slow down, but economic projections for the next several years are favorable for continued expansion.

The Downtown Austin Alliance is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(4) organization whose mission is to increase the value and vitality of downtown. Founded in 1993, the Downtown Austin Alliance manages the downtown Public Improvement District (PID), a special assessment district created by the downtown property owners and approved by the City Council. The 15-year period between 1993 and 2008 has been one of substantial change in the region, the city, and the downtown area. Travis County's population has increased by 69%, while the city of Austin has grown from a population of 466,000 to 710,000 – an increase of 52% (U.S. Bureau of the Census). During the same period, Austin's Downtown area has become increasingly vital, attractive, and much more interesting.

Today the DAA has 683 members, comprised of 472 Assessed Members (property owners) and 211 Associate Members. In fiscal year '08-'09, it has a budget of approximately \$2.3 million, based on the assessed value of downtown properties located within the PID.

The DAA is engaged in literally dozens of projects and issues that contribute to the safety, cleanliness, accessibility, and appeal of Downtown Austin for the enjoyment of residents, employees, and visitors. Broadly speaking, the DAA's vision and voice are manifest in two primary ways. The first is way is through advocacy and engagement in planning decisions that impact downtown. The second way is through direct service. The DAA's two primary areas of direct service are: 1) supporting safety and cleanliness; and 2) creating and sustaining demand for commerce and residential space in downtown. The DAA's foci include promoting economic development, recruiting appropriate retail businesses, improving access and mobility, addressing key safety and cleanliness issues, partnering to revitalize parks and green spaces, and fostering the success of arts, entertainment and cultural events and programs in Downtown Austin.

Arts & Parks Director

The Downtown Austin Alliance seeks a seasoned urban Arts & Parks Director who can build on the Alliance's partnerships to create a more exciting, creative and connected downtown through parks, open spaces, plazas, art institutions, public art, entertainment and the creative culture in the community.

Desired Experience and Attributes

Ideal candidates will bring to the position a variety of attributes, knowledge and skills:

- Effective communicator, strategic and respectful collaborator who can foster partnerships in the community
- Ability to see the big picture while managing both long- and short-term projects
- Proven track record at volunteer, contractor and vendor management
- Ability to collaborate and execute programs, projects and events
- Experience with implementing systems, processes and infrastructure to take downtown Arts & Parks to the next phase
- Problem solver, strategic thinker who is creative, detail oriented and passionate about downtown

Job Description

Reporting to the Executive Director, the Parks & Arts Director is responsible for the effective implementation of the organization's strategic plan for downtown Arts & Parks

- Develops and implements parks and arts development – strategies, initiatives and programs
- Monitor and advocate for DAA priorities in the Downtown Austin Plan, Parks and Open Space Master Plan, Waller Creek Corridor Plan, CreateAustin Plan, among others
- Manage DAA Parks and Arts & Entertainment volunteer committees and activities such as Bike Rack Sculpture Project, Congress Avenue Holiday Decorations, Holiday Stroll and Sing-Along, Downtown Historic Square programs and events
- Work closely with citizen groups, advisory bodies, DAA staff and others concerned with parks and arts programs and activities to achieve shared goals
- Oversee the departments' budgets, develop revenue sources for programming, projects and events, and actively seek methods of park and arts development financing, including sponsorships and public or private sector grants

Qualifications

Candidates should have a BA/BS degree with a minimum of 5 years experience in a related field. Knowledge of downtown revitalization principles, private sector development, parks and open space, arts & culture is desired.

Compensation

A competitive salary plus a full benefits package will be offered.

To Apply

Qualified candidates should send a resume and cover letter to: Molly Alexander, Associate Director, Downtown Austin Alliance 211 E. 7th Street, Ste 818, Austin, Texas 78701, or email it to jobs@downtownaustin.com no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, July 17, 2009.