



VICE PRESIDENT OF CONNECTS

ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES OPERA

Founded in 1986 by a team of visionaries and creatives, Los Angeles Opera (LA Opera) stands out as a leader amongst the arts and culture community of Greater Los Angeles. As the fourth largest opera company in North America, which traces its origins back to Los Angeles Civic Grand Opera that was formed in 1948, the LA Opera's mission is to serve the public by producing world-class opera that preserves, promotes, and advances the art form while embodying the diversity, pioneering spirit, and artistic sensibility unique to Los Angeles. The opera envisions an engaged and enlightened community where all members have equitable access opportunities to collectively enjoy the rich aesthetic, emotional, intellectual, and cultural experience of opera.

Under the strong leadership and vision of President & CEO, Christopher Koelsch, the Los Angeles Opera is reaffirming its steadfast commitment to reflect the vibrant culture, creativity and diversity exemplified by Angelenos throughout the city. As the performing arts reemerge from pandemic closures, the Los Angeles Opera is actively working to identify artistic innovation for its upcoming productions that reinvigorate the classic operatic repertoire while honoring its legacy, and simultaneously significantly expand the canon.

The LA Opera Connects program aims to cultivate and steward community partnerships for the purpose of increased civic engagement with opera and civic betterment in Los Angeles. Annually, LA Opera Connects organizes more than 30 events to engage 150,000+ community members across the county, including underserved students, senior citizens, veterans, and hospital patients. The Connects team serve as ardent defenders of access to the arts who are deeply passionate about their work and work tirelessly to dismantle barriers imposed by race, class, age, gender, and other factors. Examples of successful community collaborations that the LA Opera Connects has launched include an annual major community opera produced alongside the Archdiocese of Los Angeles which utilizes amateur performers from diverse communities; the launching of a five opera cycle for, of, and by communities across LA County in anticipation of the Olympics Arts Festival in 2028; the commissioning of a new children's opera focused on civil rights in partnership with the Watts Labor Action Committee; and libretto writing workshops with veteran's organizations throughout Los Angeles to capture and integrate their unique experiences into upcoming LA Opera productions.

Key Facts

- 272 productions staged: 1,684 performances at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
- Annual reach of 150,000+ for LA Opera Connects
- 30+ free arts programs launched via Connects
- 50+ main stage performances; 117,000 audience members on average

Vision & Values

VISION

"To create an engaged and enlightened community in which all members have the opportunity to collectively enjoy the rich aesthetic, emotional, intellectual, and cultural experience of opera."

VALUES

Ensure that the work Connects does serves the artistic goals as well as the social or community efforts of our partners.

To embody the diversity, pioneering spirit and artistic sensibility unique to Los Angeles.

Visit



Located in the heart of downtown Los Angeles, the organization's home theatre is the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, part of the Music Center campus that also includes Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Mark Taper Forum and the Ahmanson Theatre. The campus is near other renowned cultural institutions such as the Broad and the Museum of Contemporary Art. Los Angeles, an ethnically diverse metropolitan city known for its year-round warm weather, is currently on the verge of a once-in-a-generation transformation with the rise of light rail transportation, new museums, and gleaming new stadiums that will welcome Olympians, soccer, basketball and football teams alike. Between the opening of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, the arrival of the Los Angeles Football Club, the construction of the Intuit Dome, the newly opened SoFi Stadium and the 2028 Summer Olympics, visitor levels are expected to increase exponentially in the coming years.

We invite you to learn more at www.laopera.org.

THE POSITION

The Vice President of Connects role represents a unique and distinctive opportunity to lead and cultivate the growth of educational and community programs that will positively impact the lives of students, families, seniors, and community members throughout Los Angeles. The Vice President of Connects, a cultivator of productive partnerships, a natural collaborator and a subtle thinker, will join a strong, engaged and passionate team and will serve as a strategic thought partner to the President/CEO and other senior leadership. The Vice President of Connects provides oversight and management of over 30+ sustained Connects programs which serve hundreds of diverse community partner organizations. This position reports directly to the President/CEO of the LA Opera and will work closely with the Board of Directors as well as a Connects board committee. The Vice President of Connects will serve as a key member of LA Opera's executive leadership team and will collaborate closely with the leader of the mainstage opera activities, development, marketing and PR, IT, and finance departments. They will supervise a current team of 10 staff and a larger group of 100+ teaching artists, musicians, affiliated scholars and technicians, and another 100+ volunteers. Additionally, they will explore ways to continually expand LA Opera Connects reach throughout Los Angeles county's racially and ethnically diverse communities, through sustained partnerships and programs that create operatic traditions for all Angelenos and demonstrate the necessity of opera and cultural engagement.

The Vice President of LA Opera Connects is a leader that must bring extraordinary vision and creativity, entrepreneurial energy, excellent presentation and written communication skills, an ability to inspire and motivate colleagues and volunteer leadership, sensitivity to multi-cultural issues, and enthusiasm and delight in opera as an art form.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES

Within the first 12 to 18 months, the Vice President of Connects will achieve the following major objectives:



- Emerging from the pandemic closures, strategically and holistically reestablish LA Opera Connects staff configuration, programs, productions, and partnerships in a way that builds upon pre-pandemic strengths, as well as skills and new relationships gained with online programs.
- Conceptualize and develop additional “signature” programs that create high visibility in and interest from the community in LA Opera’s educational and community programs.
- Achieve significant progress in the development of LA Opera’s “Song of LA”, a community-centered project aimed at highlighting various communities in Los Angeles to showcase on the world stage for the 2028 Olympics.
- Further build the reputation of LA Opera Connects as a leader in exceptional community engagement and education throughout the region, as an in-demand collaborator and partner, and as national model.
- Examine and analyze existing programming to identify what programs should be overhauled and/or eliminated.
- Develop partnerships and presence of the LA Opera in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Vice President of Connects will have the following primary responsibilities:

- Provide artistic vision and guide strategy for the implementation of LA Opera Connects programs that occur in both the opera house and in community.
- Lead, manage and mentor staff to ensure excellent operational results and outcomes, while fostering an achievement-oriented work environment in which all team members feel respected and able to do their best work in support of the mission.
- Partner with the President/CEO and CFO to establish annual artistic and financial goals and outline measurements for success while developing strategic long-term financial targets and plans for the department.
- Responsibility for the fiscal integrity of the LA Opera Connects Department and programs; manages and directs an annual department budget of \$1.5 million, and additional special budgets of \$500K-\$1 million.
- Report on goals, strategies and outcomes to both senior leadership and the Board of Trustees.
- Manage Board committee, and community advisory groups including College Advisory, Teachers Advisory and Teen Ambassadors.
- Create sustainable, relevant and bold programming to complement mainstage, Off Grand and On Now (digital platform) presentations, helping to welcome new and returning audiences and enrich their engagement with the art form.
- Expand established strategic relationships with key community partners and identify new opportunities to collaborate with community organizations.



- In partnership with LA Opera's development team, assist in seeking program support, including, but not limited to, donor cultivation, stewardship, grant management and reporting.

QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate will bring most of the following qualifications and skill sets:

- A passion for the performing arts, particularly opera, as well as community engagement and education.
- A minimum of ten years of experience in programming and community engagement, coupled with strategic planning and execution, ideally within a performing arts or arts and culture organization.
- Demonstrated expertise in developing and producing shows and programs with overlapping schedules; ability to manage artists, teaching artists and administrators.
- Deep experience and demonstrated success in designing standards-based educational programming for diverse populations and working with school and district administrations.
- The confidence to advocate for creative, original programming coupled with the resilience to lead a department that is constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of the community.
- A strong understanding and appreciation of how to work within a large nonprofit structure, including marketing sensibility, awareness of philanthropic partners and processes; prior experience collaborating on fundraising and promotion activities is preferred.
- A collaborative, positive and flexible team player who can work closely with company leaders, Board members, artists, and other internal and external constituencies; the ability to be decisive and align others around strategic decisions.
- Exceptional interpersonal skills and compelling professional presence to build strong relationships and adapt to the needs of diverse groups of individuals at all levels of the organization.
- Strong management and human resources skills with demonstrated success in team building, engagement, and leadership.
- A degree in the arts or arts administration is preferred.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESS

LA Opera's goal is to create, enhance, and advance an inclusive climate in which all employees, artists, and audience members are respected, honored, and feel a sense of belonging by embracing and celebrating diversity in thought, expression, and background. The company is seeking a Vice President of Connects who champions and demonstrates this commitment.



COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

The Los Angeles Opera offers a highly competitive salary and a wide range of benefits as part of a total compensation package. As a leader in Southern California's vibrant and diverse performing arts communities, the LA Opera also offers a supportive, family friendly, and inclusive work environment. Relocation will be provided for the successful candidate.

APPLICATION

The Los Angeles Opera has retained Campbell & Company to conduct this search. The team for this project includes Marian DeBerry, Senior Counsel, and Kole Farrise, Associate Consultant. To be considered for this opportunity, please send a letter of interest and resume to:

Kole Farrise

Associate Consultant, Executive Search
kole.farrise@campbellcompany.com
(206) 428-3877

Individuals of identities that are underrepresented in arts administration are especially encouraged to apply.



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