



Studio Art Quilt Associates Executive Director Opportunity Profile

We invite you to consider this special opportunity to:

- lead a remarkable community
- help shape a vibrant future
- enrich the experiences of approximately 4,000 members in 45 countries on 6 continents
- oversee 40 member regions across the globe
- manage an organization with a global and local virtual & physical presence with a supportive board, professional staff, engaged members, and broad donor base
- work in a 100% virtual position with some travel
- enjoy a competitive salary and benefits
- manage a virtual mix of full-time and part-time staff and contract professionals

About SAQA

Some opportunities are about leading an organization. Others are about joining a community where people find purpose, connection, and belonging. We believe this opportunity is both.

A Stable Foundation. For more than three decades, Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA) has played a leading role in advancing the art quilt as a respected form of contemporary art through exhibitions, education, publications, and partnerships that have expanded both artistic practice and public appreciation.

Along the way, SAQA has built a vibrant international community of nearly 4,000 members in forty-five countries, including six continents; contributed to a vibrant global exchange of

ideas, creativity, and artistic exploration; and earned an international reputation for artistic excellence, innovation, professionalism, and service.

Following more than twenty years of exceptional leadership by retiring Executive Director Martha Sielman, we are seeking an executive director who will build on what SAQA has already achieved and help shape this organization's future. SAQA has already achieved more than its founders could have imagined. The next executive director will help the organization imagine—and realize—what else might be possible.

A Strong Community. Although SAQA spans the globe, members frequently experience the organization through more personal connections rooted in shared interests or geography. Some begin through more than 40 SAQA member regions. Others discover connection through Special Interest Groups or through small groups of artists gathering virtually to explore marketing, surface design, exhibition opportunities, creative challenges, or simply to encourage one another. Relationships formed through exhibitions, conferences, publications, educational programs, and volunteer service often grow into creative partnerships, professional collaborations, trusted critique circles, and lasting friendships. These communities are not created by policy. They emerge naturally as our members discover kindred spirits. Together, they transform an international organization into one that feels deeply personal.

Supporting this remarkable community is a small, dedicated professional staff led by an executive director, a supportive board of directors, and an extraordinary network of volunteers and donors whose leadership, expertise, and generosity make possible everything SAQA accomplishes.

If you are inspired by the opportunity to lead with vision, foster collaboration, and help an extraordinary organization continue to grow and thrive, we hope this opportunity inspires you to discover all that SAQA is—and all it can become.

The Role of the Executive Director

The executive director serves as SAQA's chief executive officer, working in tandem with the board of directors to advance the organization's mission, strategic priorities, and long-term sustainability. The executive director provides visionary leadership while overseeing operations, financial stewardship, staff leadership, membership engagement, and the successful delivery of SAQA's programs and initiatives.

Beyond leading the organization, the executive director advances SAQA's leadership within the broader fiber arts community by cultivating strategic partnerships with peer organizations, representing SAQA on the national and international stage, and fostering collaboration that expands the organization's influence while advancing the visibility, appreciation, and influence of the art quilt as a fine art medium.

Working collaboratively with staff, volunteers, members, donors, the board, and external partners, the executive director strengthens SAQA's impact, builds organizational capacity, and ensures the organization continues to thrive as the leading international organization dedicated to the art quilt.

Future Leadership Priorities

We are looking for an executive director who will focus on the following priorities:

Shape Strategic Direction. Envision and create SAQA's future of emerging possibilities. Clearly identify the scope of all roles: Board, volunteers, committees, members, staff, independent consultants, and donors.

Enhance the Member Experience. Cultivate a vibrant, inclusive and diverse membership base, while fostering a member experience that reflects SAQA's commitment to artistic excellence, learning and meaningful connection. Strengthen opportunities for participation, collaboration, and leadership while ensuring members feel welcomed, valued, and inspired throughout every element of their relationship with SAQA.

Advance the Art Quilt as Fine Art. Champion the art quilt and the artists who create it by expanding recognition, fostering partnerships, and creating opportunities that elevate the medium within the broader arts community. Cultivate relationships with museums, galleries, collectors, educators, sponsors, and peer organizations while encouraging innovation and collaboration that strengthen the visibility, appreciation, and enduring significance of the art quilt.

Ensure Long-Term Financial Strength. Strengthen SAQA's financial foundation through thoughtful donor stewardship, diversified revenue sources, strategic partnerships, strong fundraising and sustainable growth. Explore engaging new donors and establishing other donation opportunities such as planned-giving

Foster Organizational Capability. Build a collaborative, high-performing culture in which staff and volunteers are supported and empowered to contribute their talents. Invest in leadership development, organizational effectiveness, and succession planning while fostering an environment where ideas are welcomed, accountability is shared, and continuous learning enables both people and the organization to thrive. Manage and inspire staff to meet their role responsibilities while supporting SAQA values.

A Collaborative and Visionary Leader

We are looking for a leader with the following qualities:

The next executive director must bring the experience, judgment, and strategic perspective needed to lead an internationally recognized nonprofit organization. Equally important, they should bring the curiosity, humility, and collaborative spirit needed to earn the confidence of a remarkable community of artists, volunteers, staff, board members, donors, collectors, curators, educators, and partners.

The successful candidate is expected to recognize that every organization has its own culture, traditions, and relationships. Before introducing change, they will seek to understand what has made SAQA successful, what members value most, and what possibilities remain to be realized. They will appreciate that thoughtful leadership balances fresh perspective with deep respect for the organization's history and the people who have shaped it.

The executive director must be willing to work closely with a highly engaged board of directors, partner with a talented professional staff, collaborate with volunteer leaders throughout the organization, oversee the management of over 40 member regions, and represent SAQA to artists, museums, galleries, educational institutions, collectors, donors, sponsors, and partner organizations around the world.

The executive director must be a strong manager, comfortable working with an entirely virtual staff consisting of a mix of full and part-time employees and independent consultants.

The successful candidate must be equally comfortable speaking with a first-time member attending a regional gathering or a museum curator discussing a major exhibition. They will understand that every interaction contributes to the organization's reputation, culture, and ability to inspire confidence.

The executive director must understand and prioritize fundraising efforts and stewardship of donor relationships.

The executive director must possess strong computer and technical skills and be willing to embrace emerging technologies.

We seek a leader who is both strategic and pragmatic—someone who enjoys imagining the future while ensuring today's work is accomplished with excellence. They must understand budgets as well as mission; governance as well as relationships; operations as well as inspiration; and innovation as well as stewardship.

Although the next executive director need not be a practicing fiber artist, they must possess a genuine appreciation for artistic practice and the creative process. More importantly, we are looking for a leader who understands how to help creative communities flourish: through trust, encouragement, curiosity, generosity, and opportunities for people to grow together.

To Apply...

SAQA welcomes applications from leaders who are inspired by the opportunity to advance the contemporary art quilt, strengthen a vibrant international community, and guide the organization through its next chapter.

Compensation and Benefits

SAQA offers a competitive compensation and benefits package designed to attract and support exceptional leadership. The anticipated salary range for this position is **\$85K - \$110K**, commensurate with qualifications, experience, and demonstrated leadership.

In addition, eight weeks paid time off is available which includes sick time, personal time, and holidays of choice. Professional memberships and journals reimbursed as needed for continuing education, and business travel costs reimbursed including a modest per diem. Computer and printer provided if needed.

Full health insurance coverage for the executive director. Family members can be added for an additional cost. No dental or vision insurance provided. Long-term disability insurance with small amount of life insurance included. Worker's comp coverage appropriate for their state of residence

Location and Travel

This position is fully remote. The executive director typically travels four to six times annually to represent SAQA at conferences, exhibitions, and major industry events, building relationships, expanding the organization's visibility, and strengthening connections across its international community and the broader fiber arts field.

Application

Please submit the following materials by **September 7, 2026**, to saqasearch@gmail.com.

Cover Letter - Please address the following:

- Why you are interested in serving as SAQA's executive director at this point in your career.
- Your leadership approach to building collaborative, mission-driven organizations.
- Relevant accomplishments demonstrating your ability to lead a mission-driven arts organization, including developing philanthropic support, engaging donors, and building strategic partnerships.

- Your experience engaging and collaborating with diverse stakeholders, including board members, volunteers, virtual staff, members, supporters, and community partners.
- How your leadership philosophy and experience reflect SAQA's mission, vision, and core values of excellence, innovation, integrity, and inclusion.

Resume or Curriculum Vitae

Please include a current **resume or curriculum vitae (CV)** outlining your professional experience, education, leadership roles, and relevant accomplishments.

Professional References

Please provide the names and contact information for four to five professional references who can speak to different aspects of your leadership and professional experience. References will only be contacted with your advance knowledge and permission.

Questions?

We look forward to hearing from applicants who are inspired by this opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact SAQA at the same email at saqasearch@gmail.com.

Because your questions will be going to the same email box as applications, help us see your question as soon as possible by typing “QUESTION” in the subject line.

Thank you!