

Executive Director

Alabama Humanities Foundation

Birmingham, AL

The Alabama Humanities Foundation's mission is to foster learning, understanding and appreciation of our people, communities and cultures.

The Alabama Humanities Foundation has been a committed leader in helping support and promote the humanities in Alabama since 1974.

Driven by the idea that knowledge of the humanities provides the ability to think creatively, critically, reason and question, AHF is actively engaged in investing in and leading programs that materially strengthen the community and more deeply engage citizens. Through the celebration and study of literature, history, law, philosophy and the arts, the Foundation helps to enrich Alabama and promote its many cultural assets. Given the challenges that surround our civic dialogue in America at present, AHF can play a key role in not only celebrating how awareness of the humanities make us better, but also how they can bring people together and build stronger communities.

The opportunity for the Executive Director is bold and compelling: to help position the foundation as a vital part of the cultural fabric of Alabama and enable the organization to strengthen the state through effective programs and support of important initiatives in the humanities. By providing leadership and making a strong case for the value of the humanities as both an essential resource and good public policy, AHF will further establish Alabama as a state rich with cultural, literary and historical assets for current and future generations.

To reach its aspirations, AHF seeks an executive who is driven to help advocate for the material need for humanities to be a part of the lives of Alabamians. S/he is a passionate servant-leader who brings relevant professional experience to this unique opportunity.

In partnership with a committed board and staff, the Executive Director will work to address several key mandates that include:

- Expanding the visibility and reach of AHF and its programs
- Leading organizational discussions and efforts around strategic planning and institutional goals

- Helping grow the level of support for AHF to help ensure long-term financial sustainability
- Advancing an organizational culture with the goal of further developing the staff, clarifying roles and leveraging the talents and reach of the board

A core strength of the organization is its programming; key initiatives and programs include:

📖 [Road Scholars Speakers Bureau](#)

📖 [SUPER teacher Workshop Series](#)

📖 [Prime Time Family Reading Time](#)

The organization is also a funder of important state humanities programming; AHF directs a portion of their budget towards awarding grants to support public humanities programming. These awards help promote the appreciation and understanding of history, literature, philosophy, civics and culture throughout the state.

The new Executive Director will be a leader with vision, the right balance of gravitas and humility, credibility and an authentic passion for the humanities. S/he will have a compelling presence, strong communication skills and proven expertise and commitment to leading a strong organizational culture and cultivating relationships.

The Executive Director will:

- Be a strategic, inspiring leader who will lead AHF with passion and purpose and be a champion for the humanities.
- Bring strong financial and business acumen to AHF.
- Be the face of the organization, an uncommonly good relationship builder and a compelling ambassador for the humanities in Alabama and abroad.
- Steward and grow critical public sector, donor and funding relationships and cultivate philanthropic relationships in the region that respond to strong programming and a compelling organizational agenda.
- Be a humble servant leader that embraces the need for a strong organizational culture as a high organizational priority.

The ideal candidate is a compelling leader with significant knowledge, passion and experience in contexts relevant to the Alabama Humanities Foundation. Previous experience in a leadership role in the humanities field would be a considerable asset but is not a mandate.

- Passion for the mission of AHF and a commitment to championing the humanities
- Solid financial and business acumen
- The ability to lead, inspire and mobilize people to accomplish important goals
- A strong commitment to the professional development of staff
- The ability to create and grow a strong organizational culture
- A compelling, energizing and inviting presence, with high emotional intelligence, listening, and communication skills
- Experience in managing humanities programming and driving impact
- A vision for how to increase the visibility and awareness of AHF
- A proven track record of driving consensus around a common vision – and the courage to implement change
- The ability to present and communicate clearly, persuasively and compassionately to audiences that include the media, elected officials, civic clubs, peers, current and future partners, donors and corporate leaders
- Experience in working successfully with nonprofit boards
- Fundraising, revenue generation and/or experience with business development
- A Bachelor's degree in a relevant field of study; Master's Degree preferred

The Executive Director reports to the AHF Board of Directors. The organization has a full-time staff of 7, is financially stable and has a current annual budget of \$1.6M that supports its programs and operations.

**To apply or suggest a prospective candidate,
email AHF@boardwalkconsulting.com
or call
Paula Nicholas at 404-420-5851 or 615.293.4176**