

Executive Director

New Hampshire Boat Museum, Wolfeboro, NH



The New Hampshire Boat Museum (NHBM) www.nhbm.org, with a mission to inspire an understanding and appreciation of the unique role New Hampshire's lakes play in people's lives, seeks an experienced and enthusiastic Executive Director to take it to its next level. NHBM, located in Wolfeboro, on the shore of Lake Winnepesaukee in the beautiful Lakes Region of New Hampshire, just marked its 25th anniversary and is undertaking a capital campaign to construct a new museum building and increase its endowment. The new director will have the opportunity to work with the Board to complete the campaign, which is currently in the non-public phase, and to oversee the creation of the new museum facility on lakefront property that the NHBM has recently purchased. The new building will allow the museum to develop additional exhibits and experience-based educational programs to carry out its goals of celebrating the history and stories of life on New Hampshire's lakes and providing programs that focus on learning through doing for people of all ages.



NHBM building—the former theater of a summer resort



Boats and related items in the museum

Opportunities of the Position

- Be part of a team that will create a new museum that will enable the NHBM to carry out its recently expanded mission of interpreting the multi-faceted story of New Hampshire's lakes, from boating to social and cultural history to environmental stewardship and ecology.
- Work with a dedicated Board and Capital Campaign Committee to complete the \$5.5 million *Just Add Water* campaign for a new facility and an endowment.
- Have a significant positive impact on a museum that is “on the cusp of something great” and truly make a difference in a museum and the community and region that it serves.
- Guide the museum as it positions itself as a family-oriented site offering experiential learning for all ages.
- Broaden the museum's constituency as it reaches out to new audiences in new communities.
- Lead and inspire a small professional staff and a group of over 200 volunteers whose work is crucial to the success of the museum and its programs.
- Work with a Board that is active, engaged, and eager to learn more about the museum field.
- Enjoy the support of the town government, whose leaders view the museum as an asset to the community and are supportive of the campaign and expansion, as well as the support of area residents and businesses.
- Work collaboratively with other museums in the region through the NH Heritage Museum Trail.

Required knowledge, experience, and abilities

Academic Background

- Bachelor's degree in a related field. Master's degree in museum studies or similar field preferred.
- Knowledge of/interest in the history of boats, American history, marine environments and ecology a plus.

Experience

- 7-10 years of museum experience, including at least 3 in management. Small museum experience desirable.
- Knowledge of and experience with sound business/museum financial management practices; willingness to adopt a conservative approach to finances.
- Track record of developing proactive, entrepreneurial, and innovative approaches to problem solving.
- Strong marketing and public relations experience, with the ability to engage a wide range of stakeholders and communities. Fluency in current social media for communication and marketing preferred.
- Proven track record as a fundraiser. Experience with a capital campaign highly desirable.
- Experience with exhibit development helpful.
- Knowledge of best professional practices in all areas of the museum field.

Abilities

- Desire to work in a small museum and a willingness to do whatever it takes to get the job done.
- Desire to lead, inspire, and motivate a small but enthusiastic staff, an active, engaged board with a willingness to expand their knowledge of the museum field, and a large dedicated volunteer corps.
- Willingness to work hard to ensure the success of the many different programs and events that take place during the busy summer season (Memorial Day through Labor Day). This includes the ability to undertake moderate physical activity and work some evenings and weekends in season.
- Strong interpersonal skills. Outgoing, likes to meet people, be the face of the museum in the community.
- Flexibility. Ability to multi-task, work with interruptions.

More about the Museum

The New Hampshire Boat Museum was founded in 1992 with a goal of preserving the boating heritage of New Hampshire's lakes. Today that mission has expanded to include the history and ecology of Lake Winnepesaukee and other freshwater bodies in the region. With the mission as a starting point, the Museum's programs and exhibits explore such diverse topics as the Native American experience; lakeside industries; the history and architecture of homes and boathouses; changing vacation patterns; lakeside camps; the lake environment; and transportation to the lake by stagecoach, train and car as well as by boat. With an annual budget of \$350,000, a year-round full time staff of two, several seasonal employees, and a corps of over 200 talented and dedicated volunteers, the NHBM has a membership of 500 and serves close to 10,000 people annually through museum visits and onsite and outreach programs and events. The museum itself is open seven days a week Memorial Day through Columbus Day.

The Capital Campaign

The NHBM is in the quiet phase of *Just Add Water*, a \$5.5 million Capital Campaign to build a new museum and increase its endowment. Landlocked for its first 25 years, NHBM is on the move to a new waterfront home where it will construct a new facility on Lake Winnepesaukee's Back Bay. The 10,000 square foot museum will be open twelve months a year and will provide gallery space for changing and permanent exhibits; a children's Discovery Center; a multi-purpose program and event space with a caterer's kitchen; collections storage space; an expanded museum store; and office space. An architect has been chosen and conceptual drawings prepared. When the move to the new building is accomplished, the Museum plans to renovate its current building for a four-season boatbuilding and restoration shop.

How to Apply

For full job description and application details, contact Executive Search Consultant Gail Nessell Colglazier at gncolglazier@gmail.com. Nominations welcome. **NHBM is an equal opportunity employer.** The Museum's policy is to create a favorable work environment in which all employees are treated equally.