



Lyme Academy of Fine Arts

Managing Director

Old Lyme, CT

The Lyme Academy of Fine Arts is seeking a dynamic administrator to support the operation of a storied art academy as it completes its first 50 years and looks forward to the next 50. As the Board of Trustees undertakes the search for a Managing Director, the institution has considerable assets: a distinguished reputation, a beautiful campus in Old Lyme, Connecticut, and a substantial endowment to support the Academy's programming and mission.



Reporting to the Board, the Managing Director will define and oversee the financial and administrative infrastructure needed to support the mission of the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts. The Managing Director will continue to build and manage systems, including finance, accounting, marketing (including the website), fundraising, human resources and importantly, campus facilities. The Managing Director will work in partnership with the Artistic Directors, who also report to the board. **Application Deadline: November 7, 2022**

Lyme Academy of Fine Arts in Brief

Mission

The mission of the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts is to teach the foundational skills of drawing, painting, and sculpture in the figurative tradition. By its commitment to training students in these skills and an engagement with contemporary discourse, the Academy will empower a new generation of artists. Through its programs, the Academy is committed to enriching the cultural life of the community.

Facts and Figures

Founded – 1976

Location: Old Lyme, CT

Enrollment 2022-2023

Core Program – 28

Summer Youth Program and Workshops – 172

Friday Night Lectures – 150

Finance and Facilities

Operating Budget 2021-22 \$1,680,000

Endowment – \$9 million

Campus – 4 acres

Facility – 40,000 sq ft

Faculty and Staff

Full Time: 9

Independent Contractors (workshop teachers, models, etc.) – 79

Highlights Of the Educational Program



Students at the Academy commit to a rigorous two-year foundational program that is both grounded in tradition and progressive in its vision. During their first year, students focus on historical approaches to the development of critical observational skills and technical facility. Inside our custom north-lit studios, students work from direct observation of plaster casts and live models, utilizing a sequential, systematic progression, first taught in the Renaissance academies of Europe and, later, at Paris's École des Beaux-Arts. In year two, these methodologies are applied to painting, through increasingly challenging studio work with the cast and in the model room.

The curriculum in both years is comprehensive and intense: Classes are conducted five days a week, from 9 am until late into the evening, with weekly supplementary instruction in anatomy, sculpture, and the histories of art. Landscape, still life, and portraiture are included in the program, as are dedicated explorations of the properties of light and form. In addition to faculty and guest lectures, intimate class sizes allow for in-studio demonstrations and individualized critiques, as well as museum and gallery visits. Students who choose to pursue their studies at the Academy past the second year may stay for a third and fourth year of advanced study. During this time, students will work to further hone their skills and develop a unique visual vocabulary that represents their own artistic intentions. Throughout their study, they enjoy the benefit of having their own studio space and learning from talented artists dedicated to offering an art education grounded in both personal attention and high standards. In the fall of 2023, Lyme Academy will launch a sculpture program, led by a renowned sculptor and designed with a similar curricular plan as the core program.



Integrated into all of this instructional framework is the progressive philosophy of the Academy and its commitment to preparing each student for their future in the arts. By instilling confidence through the disciplined learning of skills and technique, and through an appreciation of the history, process, and potential of their craft, Academy students are equipped not merely to engage with today's art world, but also to influence and shape it.

More detailed information about the educational program is available at [Lyme Academy of Fine Arts](https://www.lymeacademy.com)

Leadership

The artistic direction of the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts is set by Artistic Directors Jordan Sokol and Amaya Gurpide, both internationally recognized artists and art educators. Since their arrival in Old Lyme in January 2021, they have attracted full time students from around the world to the Academy's core program and curated several important shows, including an exhibit of the works of modernist artist Lennart Anderson. The Anderson show, favorably reviewed in the *Wall Street Journal*, was called a "handsome" and "cohesive" exhibition. In addition to the leadership of the Artistic Directors, Lyme Academy enjoys the expert and creative oversight of a skilled Board of Trustees led by Board Chair Michael Duffy. The Managing Director will work collaboratively with the Artistic Directors and the Board to allow the Academy to achieve its mission.

Responsibilities Of the Managing Director

- Oversee the financial, organizational, and operational health of Lyme Academy.
- Work with the Board of Trustees on donor development and fundraising activities including an annual fundraising event and grant writing.
- Manage the stewardship of the campus buildings, open space, and leased space as well as the current art supply store and future cafe.
- Supervise all full and part-time staff, including a Bookkeeper, Grant-Writer, facilities staff and other administrative staff that may be added as the Academy grows over the next several years.
- Support the Artistic Directors as they work to fulfill Lyme Academy's mission.
- Lead communications plans (marketing, advertising, and public relations) to promote and market the Academy to prospective students, community members, and donors.
- Work closely and cooperatively with the Board of Trustees' Executive Committee and Treasurer to develop and manage each year's operating budget.
- Oversee the investment of the endowment, keeping the Chair, Investment Committee, and Board advised of the performance and allocation of funds.
- Create a multi-year plan of capital improvements, including the restoration of the historic Sill House.
- Attend committee meetings as well as regular Board meetings to provide reports on finances, endowment, programming, fundraising, student enrollment, and other activities on campus.
- Coordinate all audit activities.
- Serve as partner to the Artistic Director on the organization's financial, budgeting, and administrative processes— including HR, payroll, and benefits functions—with an eye to continuously developing and improving systems.
- Work collaboratively with the Artistic Directors on the marketing of Lyme Academy programs, including its website and successfully manage hardware and software needs as the Academy grows and develops.
- Lead efforts to develop a 5-year strategic plan that integrates the Academy's mission, programs and revenue.

Who Should Apply: Qualities and Qualifications

The ideal candidate will offer most or all of the following:

Qualifications and Experiences

- At least five years of professional experience, including managing the finance and administration of an organization with a budget of \$1 million+
- Experience creating and managing the financial and administrative aspects of a dynamic nonprofit organization or school.
- A bachelor's degree in Business, Management, or Finance (Masters of Public Administration/Master of Public Policy/Master of Business Administration preferred)
- A track record of having successfully supported a Board of Trustees
- Marketing savvy
- Technical expertise

Leadership Style and Personal Qualities

- Excellent interpersonal skills that are the hallmark of someone who is used to working collaboratively
- Personal qualities of integrity and credibility
- A commitment to and excitement for Lyme Academy's mission
- A strategically minded leader who will take initiative and move the Academy forward with confidence and vigor
- A superb communicator who is eager to connect with all constituencies, both within the Academy and in the larger community
- A confident, self-aware, and compassionate leader who is optimistic, realistic, and flexible
- A systems thinker and team builder who can build protocols and procedures
- A highly relational leader who will respect and acknowledge the contributions of all members of the community
- A poised public speaker
- A creative problem solver
- A calm and comfortable presence in social environments
- A flexible self-starter, able to multitask while also being highly detail oriented

ANTICIPATED SEARCH CALENDAR

Application Deadline	November 7, 2022
First Round Interviews	Mid November
Finalist Visits	Early December
Appointment	Mid December



Application Requirements and Search Process

DRG Talent Advisory Group is conducting this search on behalf of Lyme Academy. To discuss this opportunity in more detail, potential candidates may contact the lead consultant:

Laura Hansen, Senior Talent Consultant

lhansen@drgtalent.com

Candidates should submit **as soon as possible and no later than November 7**, an application package including the following:

- A cover letter indicating why they are particularly interested in and qualified for the position.
- A current résumé.
- The names, email addresses, and telephone numbers of three references. (We will obtain permission from candidates before contacting references.)
- Optional: Other supporting material (e.g. articles, speeches, blogs, or other writing samples) that would be useful to the Search Committee.

This position description is based upon material provided Lyme Academy of Fine Arts, an equal opportunity employer.

To apply for this position, please click [HERE](#).