

Pilchuck Glass School Names Christopher Taylor as Executive Director



Pilchuck Glass School has selected Christopher (Chris) Taylor as Executive Director, following an executive search process led by Arts Consulting Group (ACG). He will begin his tenure on April 9, 2018.

Since 2011, Mr. Taylor has served as President of The Clay Studio in Philadelphia, where he was responsible for significant organizational growth, audience expansion efforts, and unprecedented fundraising successes. While leading the organization, The Clay Studio was featured in the Wallace Foundation report *Road to Results: Effective Practices for Building Arts Audiences*, which highlighted its audience engagement efforts. Mr. Taylor has also held positions as Executive Director of the Holter Museum, a contemporary art museum in Montana; Associate Director of Three Rivers Arts Festival, a major arts festival in Pittsburgh; and Director of Community and Cultural Programs for the Center on Halsted, a community center dedicated to advancing community and securing the

health and wellbeing of the LGBTQ people of Chicago. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to start TaylorArts Group, an arts consulting firm that provided fundraising and programmatic services to small and mid-sized arts organizations in Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Philadelphia.

Mr. Taylor currently sits on the board of the American Craft Council as well as the advisory boards of the Arts and Business Council of Philadelphia and the Chicago Brewseum. He has previously served as a grant review panelist for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Independence Foundation, Windgate Charitable Trust, and National Endowment for the Arts. Mr. Taylor holds a bachelor of fine arts in sculpture and a bachelor of arts in religious studies from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He also earned a master of arts in arts administration and policy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, with a thesis topic of arts advocacy.

In making the announcement, Board President Kent Carlson said, "We are delighted to have Chris take the helm of Pilchuck Glass School. The board and staff are energized by his approach to emboldening both audience development and engagement. An artist himself, his perspective will help enrich the student experience that we continually strive to enhance each year. We value Chris's experience and track record in sound management and development."

"I am thrilled to accept the opportunity to be a part of Team Pilchuck and lead this celebrated organization," said Mr. Taylor. "For years I have admired Pilchuck Glass School and the many artists who credit its renowned educational experience and unique environment in their development. The versatility of glass is layered with complexity and possibility, when it's used alone and when it's used in partnership with other mediums. As Pilchuck looks forward, I'm excited to support the advancement of outreach programs, continue improvements of campus facilities and offerings, and build upon its excellent legacy as an international center for artists."

"ACG would like to congratulate Chris Taylor on his appointment as Pilchuck Glass School's new Executive Director," said ACG Senior Vice President Martin Bragg. "He is the dynamic and inspiring leader the organization sought to continue strengthening stakeholder relationships and building dynamic artistic and educational programs. As Pilchuck Glass School approaches its 50th anniversary in 2021, we are confident that Mr. Taylor will advance the organization's mission and bring a clear vision for artistic and educational excellence."