



San Francisco Symphony Deputy Director of Development

Organization

The San Francisco Symphony (the Symphony) is among the most adventurous and innovative arts institutions in the United States, celebrated for its artistic excellence, creative performance concepts, award-winning recordings, and standard-setting education and community engagement programs. Since it was established in 1911, the Symphony has grown in acclaim under a succession of distinguished music directors: Henry Hadley, Alfred Hertz, Basil Cameron, Issay Dobrowen, Pierre Monteux, Enrique Jordá, Josef Krips, Seiji Ozawa, Edo de Waart, Herbert Blomstedt, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Esa-Pekka Salonen.

The San Francisco Symphony presents more than 200 concerts and presentations annually for an audience of nearly 350,000 in its home of Davies Symphony Hall. A cornerstone of the organization's mission, the San Francisco Symphony provides some of the most extensive education and community programs offered by any American orchestra. The Symphony's free music education experiences engage students in grades 1–12 throughout the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), serving more than 25,000 students annually.

In 2001, the Symphony became the first American orchestra to launch its own in-house record label SFS Media. Recorded live in concert and engineered at Davies Symphony Hall, SFS Media recordings showcase music by American composers as well as core classical masterworks. San Francisco Symphony radio broadcasts, the first in the nation to feature symphonic music when they began in 1926, today carry the Symphony's concerts across the country. In 2004, the Symphony launched the groundbreaking multimedia Keeping Score series on PBS-TV and the web; the series was made available for unlimited free streaming on the Symphony's YouTube channel in 2020. In 2014, the San Francisco Symphony inaugurated SoundBox, an experimental and eclectic live music series, which takes place in an alternative performance space located backstage at Davies Symphony Hall. For its adventurous programming, the Symphony has been honored 19 times by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, and the Symphony's recordings have garnered France's Grand Prix du Disque and Britain's Gramophone Award, as well as 17 Grammy® Awards.

The San Francisco Symphony has a 50-member Board of Governors, led by Chair Priscilla B. Geeslin. The Executive Director is Matthew Spivey. For the Fiscal Year ending in August 2024, the San Francisco Symphony reported total revenue of \$80 million.

Community

Situated on the ancestral lands of the Ramaytush people, San Francisco is home to 875,000 residents and one of the world's most distinctive and innovative metropolitan cities. The San Francisco Bay Area is a popular destination for those seeking gorgeous landscapes, some of the world's finest wines, waterfront towns, nightlife, and diverse cuisines, coupled with top-tiered educational institutions, distinguished arts and culture organizations, and innovative workforce options. The nine-county Bay Area is home to approximately 7.8 million ethnically diverse residents; approximately three-fifths of the region's residents are Latinx/Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and African American.

San Francisco Symphony's Davies Symphony Hall is in the heart of San Francisco's Civic Center, adjacent the San Francisco Ballet, the San Francisco Opera, SFJAZZ, the Asian Art Museum, Herbst Theater and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. The Bay Area has the largest aggregation of research universities and federal research institutions in the nation. The University of California, San Francisco and Berkeley, and Stanford University among others, are key drivers of innovation and entrepreneurship. San Francisco is home to more than 900 IT and Software, Social and Digital Media, and Life Sciences and Biotech firms.

Position Summary

Reporting to the Chief Philanthropy Officer, the Deputy Director of Development (DDD) is a key strategic leader and is the second most senior position on the Symphony's Development Team. The DDD is responsible for strategy and contributed funding from individuals, foundations, and government supporters and overall growth of private philanthropy. The DDD works regularly with the Chief Philanthropy Officer, Board leadership, fundraising volunteers, and supports the Development Committee of the Board. The DDD is a critical frontline fundraiser, managing a portfolio of 45–50 Major Gift and Planned Giving prospects totaling a minimum of \$3 to \$5 million annually for the Annual Fund. The DDD will also lead a team of nine development professionals, with four direct reports including a Senior Giving Officer, Maestro's Circle; a Senior Major Gift Officer; a Senior Giving Officer, New Philanthropy; and a Senior Giving Officer, Foundation & Government. The ability to travel as needed to represent the Symphony around the Bay Area and northern California, and to be present at evening and weekend concert and events, is required.

Role and Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership

- Develop and lead strategy for annual giving, special fundraising initiatives, new philanthropy initiatives, and lead a team of gift officers with portfolios with capacity of more than \$1 million each.
- Serve as a key strategic thought partner and leader for Chief Philanthropy Officer, Chief Executive Officer, Board of Governors, and volunteer leadership to ensure proper planning, management, and execution of the Symphony's fundraising efforts.
- Participate as a member of the Development Leadership Team, contributing to other Development areas and overall division planning.
- Manage a donor portfolio of 45–50 households through all stages of identification, qualification, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship totaling \$3 million to \$5 million annually.
- Collaborate and provide fundraising counsel to senior leadership to identify cultivate and recruit prospective board members.
- Embrace other strategic leadership responsibilities as needed.

Board and Donor Engagement

- Collaborate and provide fundraising counsel to the Board of Governors to identify cultivate and recruit prospective board members.
- Attend and present at Board and committee meetings including Development, Gift Planning, Committee on Governors, etc. as needed.
- Create strategies with the Advancement Committee that build meaningful paths for the Bay Area's diverse community to engage in supporting the Symphony as donors, partners, advisors, and community ambassadors.
- Advise board members, both individually and collectively, on best practices in community ambassadorship and donor cultivation.
- Embrace other board and donor engagement responsibilities as needed.

Team and Organizational Oversight

- Provide leadership and guidance for gift officers to maximize productivity, increase contribution levels, and establish performance metrics to track and evaluate regularly against annual goals.
- Ensure gift officer portfolios are robust and managed through best practice to achieve ambitious revenue goals.
- Oversee discovery efforts for new donors at all levels of giving through a variety of channels including but not limited to direct mail, telefunding, and personal solicitation.
- Maintain a broad knowledge of tax laws that impact charitable giving, personal assets, and estates.

- Create a supportive, collaborative, productive, and healthy work environment based on respect and teamwork.
- Embrace other team and organizational oversight responsibilities as needed.

Traits and Characteristics

The Deputy Director of Development (DDD) will have the willingness to engage and work with different perspectives and demonstrate an openness to new ideas, complemented by outstanding interpersonal skills. Demonstrating an ability to engage donors at all levels, trustees, senior leadership, staff, and other key members of the Symphony community, the DDD will model accountability and diplomacy as foundational skills in the role.

Characteristics of the DDD include:

- **Leadership and Teamwork** – The ability to organize and inspire people in a vision while creating a sense of purpose and direction with team members.
- **Influencing Others and Interpersonal Skills** – The capability to influence other's ways of thinking, decisions, and actions while building rapport and relating well to all kinds of people.
- **Time and Priority Management** – The acuity to develop initiatives and demonstrate self-control in time and priority management while identifying and overseeing resources, tasks, systems, and people to obtain results.
- **Stakeholder Focus** – The sensitivity to anticipate, meet, and/or exceed stakeholder needs, wants, and expectations.
- **Goal Orientation** – The capacity to set, pursue, and attain goals regardless of obstacles or circumstances.

Qualifications

A minimum of seven to 10 years of proven organizational, supervisory, and fundraising leadership experience is essential. Relative experience outside the nonprofit environment working with high-net worth individuals will be considered. A successful record of conceptualizing and executing fundraising plans across donor categories (individual giving, foundation and government support) is required. Proven success in cultivating, stewarding, and soliciting prospects at the \$100,000+ level is required. Ability to successfully manage a team in a sophisticated, fast paced, and complex fundraising environment is essential. Strong organizational skills, ability to manage multiple tasks and priorities, and meet deadlines in a high-volume, fast-paced environment is needed. The ability to lead and mentor an experienced team is essential. Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, especially regarding the Symphony and its mission, vision, and values are essential. Ability to professionally and diplomatically communicate and interact with a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders. Familiarity with and/or passion for orchestral music is a plus, and experience working in the arts is highly desired. Proficiency in Microsoft Office and donor database software is needed; Tessitura experience is preferred.

Compensation and Benefits

The Symphony provides a competitive salary depending on experience in a range between \$168,809 to \$193,485 with generous health and welfare benefits. The current schedule for this position requires a minimum of two days in the office per week, in addition to evening and weekend events.

Applications and Inquiries

To submit a cover letter and resume with a summary of demonstrable accomplishments (electronic submissions preferred), please click [here](#) or visit ArtsConsulting.com/OpenSearches. For questions or general inquiries about this job opportunity, please contact:

Todd M. Ahrens, Vice President
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The San Francisco Symphony is a fully committed equal employment opportunity institution and welcomes applications from all qualified persons, including those who consider themselves to be of a race, national origin, or ancestry that is not fully represented in musical arts programs in the United States. Personnel decisions regarding applicants for employment are made without regard to race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics), status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran, age, citizenship, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws.