



**Job Title: Director of Philanthropy**

**How to Apply:**

**Please follow the link below to our website where you can apply directly on our job board.**

<https://www.houstongrandopera.org/about/employment-and-auditions>

**Job Highlights**

The Director of Philanthropy serves as a key major gift officer at Houston Grand Opera, working to identify individuals with the potential to make transformative gifts to the organization, and systematically bringing them through all phases of the fundraising cycle, from donor qualification to effective solicitation and stewardship. This position will work closely with all departments throughout the company to develop special funding opportunities for donors and strategically partner with company leadership at all levels to secure them. The Director of Philanthropy will manage special major gift initiatives as needed, such as HGO's Leadership Initiative, and work with the Senior Director of Philanthropy to manage underwriting opportunities for mainstage performers, artists, productions, and initiatives at the \$25,000 level and above. The ideal candidate will have a passion for the arts, excellent communication skills, and a proven track record of successfully soliciting and closing major gifts.

**Join Us!**

We are looking for talented, passionate, dedicated people who are eager to make contributions to our community and our mission.

Concerned you do not meet every single requirement listed? Apply! We know that some people are less likely to apply for a job if they don't think they meet 100% of the requirements. At HGO, we are dedicated to building a diverse, inclusive, and authentic workplace. So, if you're excited about this position but your experience doesn't align perfectly, we encourage you to apply! You may be just the right candidate for this position or another role at HGO.

**About the Houston Grand Opera**

The mission of HGO is to enrich our diverse community through the art of opera. We do so by creating, curating, exploring, and producing outstanding experiences centered around the human voice. HGO has received a Tony Award, two Grammy Awards, and three Emmy Awards – we are the only opera company in the world to win all three honors.

Our strategic focus is two-fold: creating profoundly enriching experiences for our diverse audiences and clearly defining and positively promoting the HGO brand.

We are passionate about building and sustaining an inclusive and equitable working environment for all company members. We believe every team member enriches our diversity by exposing a broad range of ways to understand and engage our community and discover, design, and deliver enriching experiences.



## Compensation and Benefits

The starting salary for a candidate who meets the minimum requirements of the position is \$90,000. We offer robust benefits to full-time employees, including:

- Comprehensive and affordable health benefits, including medical, dental, and vision insurance; a high-deductible healthcare plan with an employer funded health savings account; a flexible savings account; an employee assistance program; and employer-paid life, short term disability and long-term disability insurance
- Generous paid time off including vacation, wellness, parental leave, and scheduled and flexible holidays
- 403b retirement plan with employer match
- Flexible work schedule
- Professional development fund and opportunities
- Discounted parking in the Theater District garage and nearby lots plus easy access to Metro transportation
- Free tickets to our mainstage and community productions and events

## Key Responsibilities

- **Donor Cultivation and Stewardship:** Develop and maintain strong relationships with major donors, patrons, and prospective supporters through personalized engagement strategies, including one-on-one meetings, events, and communication outreach.
- **Major Gift Solicitation:** Identify, qualify, and solicit major gift prospects with the capacity to make significant financial contributions to Houston Grand Opera. Create tailored solicitation strategies and proposals to secure major gifts in support of HGO's fundraising priorities.
- **Proposal Development:** Collaborate with the Development team, senior leadership, and artistic staff to create compelling funding proposals, impact reports, and case statements that articulate HGO's mission, vision, and funding needs to major donors and philanthropic partners.
- **Donor Recognition and Benefits:** Ensure that major donors receive appropriate recognition, stewardship, and benefits in accordance with HGO's donor acknowledgment policies. Coordinate exclusive experiences for major donors to deepen their engagement with the organization.
- **Prospect Research and Pipeline Management:** Maintain accurate donor records and gift documentation in Tessitura, the organization's donor database, to track donor interactions, solicitations, and gift commitments.
- **Collaboration and Teamwork:** Work collaboratively with the Development team, Board of Directors, volunteers, and other internal stakeholders to achieve fundraising goals and advance HGO's mission and strategic objectives. Participate in regular team meetings and strategy sessions. Assist with staffing of events as assigned.



## Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in nonprofit management, arts administration, fundraising, or related field (Master's degree preferred).
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in nonprofit fundraising, with a focus on major gifts and individual giving.
- Proven track record of soliciting and closing major gifts of \$25,000 or more from individual donors, foundations, and corporate partners.
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to cultivate meaningful relationships with donors, stakeholders, and community leaders.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to articulate HGO's mission, programs, and impact to diverse audiences.
- Knowledge of fundraising best practices, donor cultivation strategies, and moves management techniques.
- Proficiency in donor management software and CRM systems (e.g., Tessitura, Raiser's Edge, Salesforce) for donor tracking, reporting, and analysis.
- Ability to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends, to attend donor events, performances, and meetings as needed.
- Knowledge of opera is a plus. But a passion for the performing arts is essential.

## Physical Demands

The physical demands described here are representative of those we consider important for an employee to successfully perform essential functions of this job: extended periods of sitting and performing tasks such as typing and using a computer mouse, with strong visual and auditory focus, occasional lifting (not exceeding 25 pounds), reaching for items, proficiency in keyboarding, effective communication skills, and fine motor abilities, being mobile within the office for activities like attending meetings. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform essential functions.

## Equal Opportunity

Houston Grand Opera is committed to the principle of equal employment opportunity for all employees and to providing employees with a work environment free of discrimination and harassment. All employment decisions at HGO are based on business needs, job requirements and individual qualifications, without regard to race, color, religion or belief, national, social or ethnic origin, sex (including pregnancy), age, physical, mental or sensory disability, HIV Status, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, marital, civil union or domestic partnership status, past or present military service, family medical history or genetic information, family or parental status, or any other status protected by federal, state, or local laws or regulations. HGO will not tolerate discrimination or harassment based on any of these characteristics. HGO encourages applicants of all ages.