

The Kent County (Maryland) Public Library Board of Trustees invites applications for the Library Executive Director.

About Kent County Public Library

Kent County Public Library strives to be the cornerstone of the community where children and adults can experience life-long learning, personal enrichment, and connection with one another. Virtually or in-person, the library provides a welcoming environment with a knowledgeable staff, robust resources, access to emerging technologies, and innovative services and programs. The library is the premier place to experience the joy of reading, the discovery of ideas, the power of information, the excitement of collaboration, and the reward of social interaction, and it is recognized as such by the community.

Executive Director Position Description & Requirements

The position requires a Master's degree in Library Science from an ALA accredited college or university and a minimum of eight years of progressively responsible library administrative experience, with a minimum of five years serving as director, associate director, branch manager, or comparable supervisory position with specific responsibility for financial management. An ideal candidate will bring a vision of the future of progressive learning in libraries.

The Executive Director oversees the day-to-day administrative operation and functions of the Kent County Public Library system and establishes annual goals and objectives, closely monitoring strategic plan compliance. The director will champion the creation and adoption of digital and open resources to meet our socioeconomically diverse service area. The position stays abreast of trends in library and information science and embraces new technologies that support these efforts. The Executive Director establishes and fosters a collaborative, team-based approach to the provision of service and fosters effective working relationships and represents the library in interactions with local stakeholders, elected officials, and regional and state library system colleagues. Together with the Board of Trustees, the director supports library-wide planning initiatives and works closely on user services and policies for the community. The library promotes diversity and inclusion, and seeks candidates committed to equity and justice.

Please see the accompanying Position Description for specific duties and responsibilities.

Benefits: Annual paid leave is 150 hours to start, plus 10 vacation days and 5 additional partial days. The KCPL is a participatory organization in the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System. The benefits package includes health, dental, vision, and life insurance. Professional travel funding is available. Anticipated salary range of \$75,000 to \$95,000.

How to Apply: Candidates must apply online via email to trustees@kentlib.org. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until a viable pool of applicants is identified; submission prior to September 30, 2020 is strongly encouraged. In person and/or virtual interviews will follow. Please submit one document (pdf preferred) that includes:

- Cover letter
- Resume/CV
- Full contact information for three professional references
- Diversity Statement (encouraged)

COVID-19 considerations:

The KCPL is providing virtual services, and contactless curbside pickup. We are committed to following CDC and state guidelines for safety, including social distancing whenever possible, a mandatory mask policy and frequent cleaning.

About Chestertown, Maryland

“Take an unspoiled riverfront, add red brick sidewalks lined with well-maintained historic homes, sprinkle in artists’ studios and you’ve got the makings for a fine fall getaway” – or home. Chestertown, located on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, is heaven for the adventurous spirit who loves the outdoors (and also for those who enjoy a vibrant, close-knit community full of fun shops and activities). Plus, with Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. within day-tripping distance, there are plenty of solutions for the occasional urban craving.

Artists flock here, drawn by the natural beauty and low-key lifestyle. Educators, life-long learners, and history buffs are drawn to Chestertown in part by Washington College; founded in 1782, it was the first college chartered in the sovereign United States of America (George Washington lent his name and served on the first Board of Visitors and Governors). The charming town of 4000 friendly neighbors and two stoplights is serious about preservation, and it shows. The roughly 12-square-block downtown showcases one of the state’s greatest concentrations of 18th- and 19th-century buildings, second only to Annapolis, Maryland’s capital, and served as the temporary capital of the United States in 1783–1784.

It is not by chance that one of the County’s slogans is “If you could work anywhere, you would live here.” Newly installed fiber optic cable affords connectivity while Chestertown’s many charms offer a peaceful rural life with ample opportunities for families and individuals seeking an active lifestyle.

ⁱ Washingtonian September 2019