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Mosaic seeks executive director as it splits leadership roles

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Rick Sperling

Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit plans to launch a search for a new executive director as it transitions to a new leadership structure in its 25th year.

President and Founding Artistic Director Rick Sperling will remain with the organization as artistic director and the organization will hire a separate executive director, a split leadership model used by most major American nonprofit theaters, Mosaic said in a release.

Its board of directors has contracted with The Hunter Group to conduct a national search and set a goal to name an executive director by August.

The new leadership structure is the best strategy to take the organization, which is known internationally for its youth arts program, to further success, Board Chair Kate Spratt said in a statement.

"Bringing in an executive director who can focus solely on fund development and nonprofit management — while Rick continues to drive creative excellence — will allow Mosaic to further grow as a strong nonprofit, impact more young people's lives, and contribute more to the Detroit arts ecosystem," she said.

In fiscal 2015, the year of Mosaic's most recent Form 990 available, the organization reported a loss of \$129,350 on total revenue of \$1.26 million, following a reported loss of \$179,356 the year before on \$1.28 million in revenue.

Sperling said the nonprofit's 2016 audited financial figures aren't available yet but said the organization will show a loss. However, the capital campaign Mosaic completed in 2013 included a reserve fund that Sperling said helps it "weather any small yearly shortfalls," he said.

Founded by Sperling in 1992, Mosaic works to empower young people to create positive changes in their lives and communities by helping them develop patterns of cooperation, disciplined work habits and effective problem-solving skills through the creation of high-quality, professional-level performances of theater and music.

Mosaic's acclaimed all-teen performances have toured Africa, Asia, Europe, Canada and 25 states throughout the U.S. including performances at The White House, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Carnegie Hall and the Apollo Theater.

Mosaic is a past winner of the Michigan's Governors Arts Award, the National Youth Arts and Humanities Award presented by the President Committee on the Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts, and *Crain's* Best Managed Nonprofit contest.

Over its 25-year history, more than 95 percent of its teen performers have graduated from high school and gone on to college, according to a 2008 University of Michigan study, Mosaic said.

For more information about the executive director search, contact The Hunter Group Partner, Blaire H. Miller, Email: blaire.miller@huntergroup.com, Tel: 248.645.1551 ext. 207



About The Hunter Group LLC

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