

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

POSITION SPECIFICATION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GEN NEXT
FOUNDATION

Redefining Expectations

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ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

POSITION TITLE: Executive Director
REPORTING TO: President
LOCATION: Newport Beach, California
WEBSITE: www.gennextfoundation.org

GEN NEXT FOUNDATION

The Gen Next Foundation (“GNF”) incubates and scales bold and high impact social enterprises and public policy to benefit future generations. Leveraging a “*Venture Philanthropy*” type approach, GNF draws on diversified sources of resources, and far reaching and dynamic private and public sector networks, accessing the most talented minds in business, government, and philanthropy to create long term, sustainable solutions to three main cornerstone issues: ***Economic Opportunity***, ***Global Security***, and ***Education***. GNF believes the best outcome for future generations requires a strategy that comprehends the interconnectedness of the most pressing ***Generational Challenges***, and then channeling the best resources and talent to maximize the outcome.

The Interconnectedness of Gen Next Foundation’s Cornerstone Pillars

*Education is society’s entry point into being effective and impactful citizens;
Global Security protects the ability to pursue happiness and education; and
Economic Opportunity allows citizens the freedom to thrive and prosper.*

GNF is focused on being *the* social enterprise focused on generational solutions. The Foundation executes on its mission by annually identifying three to five potentially breakthrough ideas, social enterprises, or organizations meeting our criteria. Differentiating itself from a traditional charity, GNF utilizes a venture-style model – as a ***think/do tank*** that both incubates and accelerates ventures. GNF is building on the philanthropic trend that focuses more on systematic, long-term solutions with insight from private sector business models that call for scalability, efficiency, and leveraging networks and diversified resources to tackle problems often left to governments and responding to social problems with solutions that multiply over time.

GEN NEXT & THE GENESIS OF THE GEN NEXT FOUNDATION

Gen Next the idea was born a decade ago by a collection of successful entrepreneurs who were deeply concerned that future generations wouldn’t live in a world that enjoyed the opportunities from which each one of them benefited. Instead the world seemed increasingly paralyzed by short-term thinking and a shrinking commitment to the future. In response, they built Gen Next, an exclusive membership organization, enabling successful individuals the opportunity to learn about and become engaged in the most pressing issues facing future generations.

Now Gen Next boasts members across the country, with access to hundreds of top decision makers and thought leaders, and a record of deploying unlikely teams of people to realize innovative ideas that address seemingly intractable problems. The breadth, scope, and depth of the Gen Next network offers extraordinary resources of intellectual, social, and financial capital.

The Gen Next Foundation was developed as a vehicle to shift paradigms and chart new paths on issues few are prepared to tackle by leveraging talent and resources both inside and outside of the Gen Next network.

The Gen Next membership base is comprised of 250 members across the country, with some density in six different chapters (Arizona, Los Angeles, New York, Orange County, San Diego, and Seattle).

Private Sector – Policy Makers – Social Entrepreneurs: ALL LEADERS
(representative sample of the Gen Next network)

Ambassador Pierre-Richard Prosper
Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large
for War Crimes and Genocide Issues

Jared Cohen
Director, Google Ideas

Jason Liebman
Founder and CEO, Howcast.com

Rep. Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader, United States Congress

Yuri Vanetik
CEO, Vanetik International

Ken Mehlman
Member and Global Head of Public Affairs, KKR

Dan McClory
Managing Director, Burnham Securities, Inc.

Farah Pandith
Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School

Paul Makarechian
CEO, Makar Properties

Roman Tsunder
CEO, PTTOW!

Maajid Nawaz
Co-Founder, Quilliam Foundation

Juan Zarate
CBS News – Terrorism Analyst and Deputy
Assistant To the President and Deputy National
Security Advisor for Combating Terrorism

Vinny Smith
Founder, Toba Capital and Former CEO & Chairman,
Quest Software

Kevin Chavous
Founding Board Member, American Federation for
Children

Rep. Jared Polis
Member, United States Congress

THE GEN NEXT FOUNDATION AT WORK – A CASE STUDY

A successful GNF Venture is manifested by three sustaining impacts: (1) an innovative enterprise that combats a major challenge or eventually renders it obsolete; (2); a unique team and network in place that suit the major need; and (3) a challenge confronted and a paradigm changed.

In 2008 three Gen Next members, Jason Lieberman (CEO and co-founder of Howcast.com), Roman Tsunder (CEO of PTTOW!), and Jared Cohen (Director of Google Ideas), came together to address a global challenge. The three co-founded a non-profit organization, which was later named Movements.org – an organization that convenes and resources pro-democracy and anti-violence activists around the world leveraging social media and connection technologies to combat violence.

Investment: Gen Next Members and GNF lent their expertise, time, and their financial resources to start the organization, which trained hundreds of digital activists who have organized millions around the world.

Success: Movements.org built partnerships with the US State Department, Columbia University, Facebook, MTV, Edelman, Twitter, Google, YouTube, and more. In addition to public awareness on national media and print, movements.org became a scalable business model with an office and a full time staff, as well as three annual conferences in three global destinations, and continued a growing presence in youth activism where there was none before (in the tech, NGO, and business markets). In 2012, movements.org became a division of Advancing Human Rights, which was created by the founder of Human Rights Watch and the former CEO of Random House. The three Gen Next members remain on the board of movements.org.



LEADERSHIP FROM THE FRONT

Michael P. Davidson

President of the Gen Next Foundation

Michael P. Davidson connects innovative and successful leaders to dynamic mission-based ideas and organizations, creating powerful networks that help make the world better. As CEO of Gen Next, an exclusive organization of successful individuals engaged with ensuring future generations have access to great opportunities. Michael works with emerging and established leaders and helps them take on tomorrow's biggest societal challenges.

Michael helped launch Gen Next, Inc. as a Membership organization in 2008, after starting with Generation Next PAC in 2005. While Michael has been CEO, Gen Next has grown from ten Members in Southern California to a multi-million dollar enterprise, with close to 250 Members nationwide and operations in six major cities and growing. He has helped engage some of the brightest, most innovative entrepreneurs and leaders from around the U.S. and world in Gen Next's mission to ensure future generations have opportunity to flourish. Gen Next regularly hosts programs with thought leaders, dignitaries, elected officials, and high-profile business executives, allowing its Members to dialogue on global issues with the world's foremost experts and decision makers. Michael has also lead Gen Next delegations to key regions around the world, including China, Western Europe, Brazil, Russia, and the Middle East, in order to stay at the leading edge of global trends. Michael's leadership has helped Gen Next provide unmatched experiences to its Members and partners.

In addition to his leadership of Gen Next, Michael is also the President of the Gen Next Foundation (GNF), which utilizes venture philanthropy and social entrepreneurship strategies to create high-impact solutions in the areas of economic opportunity, education, and global security. Through 2013, the Gen Next Foundation raised more than \$1.6 million. Michael has helped lead GNF to significant partnerships, including collaborations with Google Ideas, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, on projects like AgainstViolentExtremism.org (AVE).

Michael's work supporting great missions and exploring generational issues goes beyond Gen Next. He also serves on the U.S. Board of Directors for the Quilliam Foundation, the world's first counter-extremism think tank, which was created to address the unique challenges of citizenship, identity, and community in a globalized world. He is also a Fellow at the Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California. He is also a Founding Member of PTTOW!, an annual summit that discusses culture, media, and marketing to consumers between the ages of 14 and 34. In the private sector, Michael was on the Board of Managers for PersonalCare Physicians from 2012 to 2013, a medical concierge healthcare company based in Newport Beach, CA. He also currently serves on the Board of Advisors of EQtainment, an educational media company that makes fun and affordable games, toys, and videos to promote emotional intelligence.

Prior to Gen Next, Michael was a candidate in a national political campaign, for which two governors, more than thirty Members of Congress, and senior political operatives endorsed him. His campaign was profiled in a The New Republic Magazine cover story, Roll Call, The Hill, and The Los Angeles Times.

Michael has provided commentary for CNN, Fox News, MTV, C-Span, KABC radio, Sacramento Bee, Orange County Business Journal, Orange County Register, San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, California Political Review, Flashreport.org and more.

He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley and enjoys spending time with family and friends, travel, movies, trying to play guitar, and reading.

POSITION AND SCOPE

The importance of the Executive Director role at the Gen Next Foundation cannot be overemphasized, nor can the ownership this individual will have over the future of the organization, and the lives and ideas s/he will impact (including their own). The Executive Director candidate will be the first to hold this role for GNF and will be called upon to create the strategic direction of the Foundation, collaboratively, of course, with the Gen Next Foundation and Gen Next, Inc, its members, and key stakeholders. For the right, forward thinking individual who has the drive to make an impact on a global as well as regional level, this is an opportunity that has no equal. As the saying goes, “a rising tide lifts all boats” – this is your opportunity to raise the tide.

The Executive Director will work closely with Michael Davidson, the President of GNF, and will develop a roadmap, and subsequently (and simultaneously) execute on three main initiatives – fundraising; GNF ventures (high impact philanthropic projects); and GNF Infrastructure Development and Capacity Building. With extremely limited human capital resources, the Gen Next Foundation has already successfully executed on its mission. This Executive Director will be called upon to nurture the organization and provide the undivided attention and leadership it needs to become *the* social enterprise focused on generational solutions. Specifically, the Executive Director must build out a fundraising strategy and plan, as well as the corresponding capital committee to include grant writing and strategic partnerships. Additionally, the Executive Director must put into place the infrastructure and processes and protocol to incubate multiple ventures on an annual basis and then matriculate them through the unique GNF venture selection process in order to develop an action plan and execute the different ventures through to completion.

The Executive Director will not be alone in this endeavor. They will work closely with the 14-member staff (and growing) at Gen Next, the over 250 Gen Next Members, as well as the regional GNF chair in each of the six regions, the Foundation Board of Directors, and key stakeholders and donors. Given the broad spectrum of input this Executive Director will receive from all of these constituents, the right candidate for this role must have extremely high levels of IQ to absorb the information coming to them, but equally high (if not greater) levels of EQ to manage the various cross-organizational relationships. This truly is the right role for someone who is attached to a higher calling, craves the opportunity to effectuate change, and always sees the “glass half full.” The power of the Gen Next Network is unimaginable and the candidate will have a desire to harness that power for good.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Primary responsibility for the overall success of the Gen Next Foundation with accountability for oversight and day-to-day management of all functional areas of the organization including: fundraising, venture development and management, and organizational capacity.
- Responsible for working closely with Gen Next leadership to author, communicate, and execute a strategic vision that establishes GNF in a compelling and sustainable manner as *the* social enterprise focused on generational solutions.
- Set the overall execution strategy focused on growth and societal impact and designed to provide maximum value to all constituents – members, supporters, partners, and those GNF serves.
- Identify potential sources of fundraising including corporate, foundation, national sponsor, and individual major donors, and develop and manage a prospect database.
- Formulate, implement and direct fundraising strategies for GNF, as well as create philanthropic partnerships, and oversee grant writing.
- Serve as the inspirational and fun leader for the GNF team and drive and maintain disciplined and sound operating practices and sustained innovation in both the fundraising and operating environments.

- Design and build the future team, attracting best-in-class talent from top-tier institutions.
- Develop and maintain strong working relationships with the membership base and all philanthropic partners.

MISSION CRITICAL OBJECTIVES – FIRST 12 MONTHS

- Establish an effective leadership presence based on personal credibility, gaining the confidence of the existing team and fostering a culture of cooperative success.
- Become intimately familiar with the Gen Next membership base, issues, history, and vision.
- Develop a comprehensive fundraising strategy including Gen Next membership engagement, philanthropic partnerships, special events and donor experiences, and grant writing.
- Fund raise \$1.5 million.
- Develop roadmap for internal GNF infrastructure to handle all fundraising, and venture development and execution.
- Manage three to five operating projects currently in queue, with a pipeline of new ventures to backfill those that have attained sustainability.

SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

There is no perfect “profile” for this role, only the perfect person, and that person *must be an action-oriented leader at heart*. And with no perfect profile, there is no specific industry that this person must come from, but they must have *the ability to manage complex projects working effectively with a complex and diverse stakeholder set*. Additional desired skills and experience include:

- A proven track record of serving as a change agent by formulating and executing growth-oriented strategic plans that drove exceptional performance.
- The profile and experience, and possibly direct relationships, to be credible fundraising and generating awareness, both internally and externally, for GNF.
- Proven people leadership acumen; a strong commercial, entrepreneurial, and practical orientation; a history of instilling and driving performance-based cultures.
- Demonstrated ability to take a leadership role in planning, restructuring and executing new processes, and introducing new concepts.
- A deep understanding of policy and the current geo-political landscape.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Effective decision-making skills – thoughtful, timely and decisive.
- Excellent relationship management skills, with the proven ability to develop long-term relationships and partnerships with external and internal stakeholders.
- Charismatic, dynamic and confident communicator.

STYLE & PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

Our vision of a successful candidate is an extremely strong hybrid of visionary leader and motivator of people, with an attachment to a higher calling and a hardwired desire to continually exceed their own expectations. This individual must be entrepreneurial and innovative, with an ability to engage internal and external stakeholders at all levels. Most importantly, the candidate must have a positive attitude and a strong work ethic while also having a sense of humor, and an ability to always see the glass half full. The Executive Director for the Gen Next Foundation will be known for the following characteristics:

- **Leading By Example:** Demonstrating and fostering, by example, a sense of urgency, strong commitment/accountability, and sound decision making to achieving goals.
- **A “roll up the sleeves” style:** Can work in a smaller organization without the need for a large support staff to execute on plans.
- **Venture Philanthropy Acumen:** Knowledge of the competitive landscape, and current and emerging practices.
- **Vision and Purpose:** Embracing and communicating the Foundation’s vision and its goals and reflecting a dedication to advancing a sustainable and innovative philanthropic development program that inspires and motivates.
- **Inspirational:** Encouraging and inspiring colleagues and subordinates to stretch beyond what they thought they could accomplish.
- **Leadership and Conflict Resolution:** Being bold enough to diplomatically state opinions which may not always be popular. Ability to work through controversy making conflicts opportunities for improvement and striving for win/win resolutions.
- **Ethics and Values:** Adheres to a code of conduct with a moral compass focused on the highest level of integrity and ethics.

EDUCATION REQUIRED

Education with a focus on public policy; international relations; law; history, business administration; or other related field.

- Bachelor’s Degree
- Masters Preferred

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about Gen Next Foundation, please visit their web site at www.gennextfoundation.org. For interest or recommendation in this role, please contact:

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