

**DIRECTOR, KELLER SCIENCE ACTION CENTER
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

*The Field Museum fuels a journey of discovery across time
to enable solutions for a brighter future rich in nature and culture*

THE SEARCH

The Field Museum, one of the world's preeminent natural history museums, seeks a dynamic, visionary conservation professional as its new Director of the Keller Science Action Center. The Director will provide leadership for the Museum's Center that is dedicated specifically to translating the Field's extraordinary collections, scientific expertise, and education excellence into targeted action for conservation and quality of life.

The Field Museum has a distinguished record of success putting museum science to work for lasting conservation results. The Center works in the Tropics—where concentration of biological and cultural diversity is at its peak—and in urban centers, where human populations are highest. Since 2000 the Keller Science Action Center has provided governments, local communities, and other entities with rigorous scientific information and follow-up efforts crucial for the protection of close to 35 million acres of highly diverse landscapes, primarily in the Andes-Amazon. Closer to home the Center has been a leader in a coalition developing and implementing a grand vision for conservation and quality of life in the Chicago Metropolis.

Reporting to the Vice President of Science and Education and working closely with the Vice President for Strategic Science Initiatives, the Director leads a staff of more than 30 skilled scientists and education professionals. The Director collaborates with staff from across the Museum and especially Science and Education, to advance The Field Museum's collections-inspired work to explore, explain, and sustain biological and cultural diversity.

The new Director of the Keller Science Action Center will join The Field Museum at a pivotal moment in its history. Reorganization of the sciences in 2013 has placed conservation as an integral element of the Museum's scientific efforts and in 2016 the Museum's board of trustees approved a new mission that fully embraces conservation and quality of life: Toward this mission the Director will work with the Center's staff and its Committee of the Board to expand and deepen the Museum's impact on conservation and quality of life, in the tropics and urban centers worldwide.

The Director will be a passionate champion of conservation action based on rigorous museum science; a gifted manager of people, processes, and systems; a compelling public advocate for the Museum and its conservation and quality of life efforts; and an energetic presence and partner in the Museum's broader community and with conservation partners. This is a vital role in an institution with a remarkable tradition for excellence and great ambition.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The story of The Field Museum is one of civic engagement, intellectual purpose, and leadership. The Museum's founding was an outgrowth of the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893, when there was a public commitment to establish "a great museum that shall be ... a permanent advantage and honor to the city." Important discoveries and scientific breakthroughs have marked the history of the Museum, and landmark exhibitions have come to the Field throughout its history. When celebrating its centennial in 1994, the Field asked what natural history museums can do for conservation and quality of life given their unrivaled expertise in documenting biological and cultural diversity. To explore this question, the Museum created a new science unit—now the Keller Science Action Center—whose purpose is to translate the Museum's wealth of knowledge and vast collections into real-time action for conservation and quality of life.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/>
<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/about>

SCIENCE & EDUCATION AND THE FIELD MUSEUM TODAY

The Field's Science and Education unit is organized in four centers with distinct and complementary priorities: Keller Science Action Center, Gantz Family Collections Center, Integrative Research Center, and Learning Center. Together the centers strengthen the Museum's capacity to use our collections to understand the past, explore the present, and act quickly on behalf of conservation and quality of life. The Museum's century-strong expertise in public programming deepens the ability of the Action Center to partner broadly with large and small institutions, with all levels of governments, and with residents in remote villages as well as in large urban centers.

The Science and Education unit includes close to 200 of the Field Museum's 500 employees. Each year about 600 volunteers and 200 interns work at the Museum, many of them in Science and Education.

For more information visit:

<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/science>

THE KELLER SCIENCE ACTION CENTER

While celebrating its centennial in 1994-5, The Field Museum made a bold decision to experiment with putting the Museum's science and collections to work directly for conservation and cultural understanding. The experiment blossomed into a team of scientist-explorers, expert in translating museum knowledge into lasting results for conservation and quality of life, both in the midst of the Chicago Metropolis and in the wildest, most remote places on Earth.

Bringing the Museum's tradition of rigorous science to bear on practical challenges worked beyond all expectations. The efforts of a small core team have led to governments protecting or putting on

track for protection close to 35 million acres of forests in the past 16 years, primarily in the megadiverse region at the headwaters of the Amazon. In the Chicago region the Museum leads pioneering collaborations that bring people and nature together in all their diversity. These collaborations have captured the imagination of cities across the country and beyond.

At the center of this success are the Museum's extraordinary collections, its reputation for excellence in diversity science, its capacity to recruit an exceptionally skilled set of scientists, and its commitment to real-time results.

For more information visit:

<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/about/science-education/keller-science-action-center>

ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR

The Director provides leadership for the Keller Science Action Center to generate large-scale advances in conservation, cultural understanding, and quality of life.

Operationally, the Director oversees and promotes effective strategies, decision-making, communication, workflow, and visible conservation results on the ground. Administratively, the Director leads and champions the staff of the Keller Science Action Center and partners with other areas of the Museum to integrate the work of the Center with efforts across the Museum, especially with other Science & Education centers, Strategic Science Initiatives, Institutional Advancement, Communications, and Finance. Intellectually, the Director supports and stimulates the increasing role of the Museum in conservation and quality of life. The Director also plays an important public role, creating opportunities to highlight the work of the Museum in conservation, and cultivating the engagement and interest of potential partners and supporters.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The Director's overarching opportunity is to build on the remarkable success of the Action Center to date, and grow the capacity of The Field Museum to shape a future rich with biological and cultural diversity. The overarching challenge is to deliver on this opportunity while staying focused on the unique role of natural history museums (compared to conservation organizations, universities, foundations, or government institutions) and on the strengths of the Field's collections. In this context, the Director will:

Grow and sustain the Action Center's efforts to generate large-scale, high-impact advances in conservation, cultural understanding, and quality of life

The Director must be an imaginative and charismatic champion of translating the Museum's rigorous science and global collections into conservation and quality-of-life results on the ground. The Director will ensure that the vision of the Field as a global leader in conservation guides and inspires the energies of staff, Action Committee members, Board members, the larger Field community, and the larger museum and conservation communities. The Director will forge new partnerships and provide strategic and pragmatic input to the Vice President of Science & Education, the Vice President of Strategic Science Initiatives, the Museum's President, and others to ensure effective conservation efforts with high visibility. The Director will build on the Center's

impressive, on-the-ground impact in conservation and cultural understanding by developing and supporting initiatives best suited for a collections-based institution, in line with the Museum's current strategic plan and beyond.

Lead and manage the Keller Science Action Center

The Director will be an incisive leader and manager of people, systems, and resources, and will oversee a staff of 30-40 highly skilled, creative professionals including ecologists, social scientists, educators, and GIS experts. The Director will address obstacles to decision-making and project implementation, and will build strong relationships with units across the Museum.

Promote the Center's conservation efforts, raising the profile of the Museum

The need for effective action in conservation, cultural understanding, and quality of life is urgent. The Field Museum is in a position to address that need. The Director will excel at opportunities to inform others about the Museum's Action programs and breakthroughs, and to engage the Museum's internal and external communities, including the Museum's trustees. A passionate spokesperson, the Director will be equally effective representing the Museum's work to scientists and non-scientists, leaders across various communities and government levels, and the general public.

Attract and secure resources for the Action Center, the work of its staff, and the Museum

The work of the Field is made possible through the generosity of individual and institutional donors, grants from private organizations, and public funding. The Director will work very closely with the Action Committee of the Board to review strategy for engaging individual donors. The Museum is currently in the quiet phase of a capital campaign; the Director will play an important role in this effort. The successful applicant will have a history of securing public and private funding for conservation endeavors, and be in a position to support the Action Center staff in their efforts with Institutional Advancement.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The Field Museum seeks a person with deep knowledge of and keen appreciation for both the social and biological aspects of conservation. The Director must combine strategic focus and clarity of purpose with openness to possibilities, ability to think fast and implement well, managerial talent, and an infectious enthusiasm for the mission of the Museum.

Among the professional qualifications, skills, and experiences that are desirable for this role, the successful candidate will bring many of the following:

Institutional and intellectual sophistication: An experienced leader in conservation or related field, with deep commitment to large-scale advances in both the biological and social aspects of conservation. An ability to understand and translate the research underpinnings of science action. Intellectual depth, professional experience, and personal confidence that inspire credibility and trust; knowledge and ability to guide and influence. Experience in a natural history museum setting is a plus as is proficiency in one or more languages that align with program needs. A masters or doctorate in the sciences is preferred, or extended experience in fieldwork and conservation, preferably in the Andes/Amazon or Chicago regions.

Strategic vision: An informed, broad, and compelling view of science-based action for conservation and quality of life, and of the role collections and natural history can play in conservation efforts; an ability to communicate this vision to inspire specialists, funders, and general audiences. Knowledge, capacity, and imagination to find opportunities for effective action in areas of the Museum's collections strengths.

Leadership qualities: The ability to achieve consensus among a diverse range of constituents and to generate excitement around ideas. A strong capacity for collaboration and teamwork; the ability to build rapport. An excellent communicator and synthesizer, with demonstrated creativity and problem-solving skills. Personal charisma, public presence, and outstanding oral and written communication skills.

Partnership-building capacities: Successful experience navigating large bureaucracies and building bridges across institutions and partnerships.

Administrative abilities: Substantial administrative aptitude, as demonstrated in effective leadership, management, and development of staff; development and tracking of program and annual budgets; orderly resolution of open issues, and successful advocacy for one's team and unit. A natural tendency to circulate widely, observe, listen, learn, and gain a broad understanding of the Museum and its capacity to act on behalf of conservation and cultural understanding.

Fundraising experience: Exposure to institutional advancement activities and an appetite to engage in the same; ability to contribute to development efforts and other extramural funding activities including foundations, corporations, individuals, and public funds.

Personal qualities: Integrity, dependability, collegiality, superb interpersonal skills and high emotional intelligence. A commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity; the ability to lead an organization with sensitivity, transparency, fairness, humility, and compassion. High energy, drive, persistence, resilience, optimism, and humor. A spirit of adventure and professional courage.

APPLICATIONS

To apply: <https://www.fieldmuseum.org/about/careers>

The Field Museum strives to create a working environment that is free of sexual, racial, and ethnic discrimination, and that promotes human dignity among all staff. As such, it is the policy of The Field Museum to hire without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status.

The Field Museum is an Equal Opportunity Employer.