



American Academy in Rome



President

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Overview

Founded in 1894, the American Academy in Rome (“Academy” or “AAR”) is one of the oldest overseas centers for independent study and advanced research in the arts and humanities. Each year, through a national juried competition, the Academy awards approximately 30 Rome Prize Fellowships. Fellows are invited to the Academy’s historic campus in Rome to pursue their work for periods ranging from six months to one year. They are provided with stipends, residential accommodations, meals, private studies or studios, and an atmosphere conducive to intellectual and artistic freedom, interdisciplinary exchange, and innovation. In addition to the Fellows, the Academy community includes Residents, persons of distinction in their fields; Affiliated Fellows from member organizations in the United States, Italy, and around the world; Visiting Artists and Scholars; and, each June, members of summer programs. At any given time, there are between 50 and 75 artists and scholars in residence.

The multi-disciplinarity of the Academy is one of its most defining characteristics. Originally opened as the American School of Architecture in Rome, in 1911 the school merged with the American School of Classical Studies in Rome. Together they formed the American Academy in Rome as a unique center for both artists and scholars.

Today, the Academy awards Rome Prizes across a range of disciplines, including: (in the arts) architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation, landscape architecture, literature (including fiction, literary nonfiction, and poetry), musical composition, the visual arts, and (in academic disciplines) all periods of historical and cultural investigation, from ancient to medieval studies, to Renaissance and modern studies, with a focus on Rome and the Mediterranean and its growing relationship to an ever-wider world. The Academy sponsors programs to provide all Fellows a cultural and scholarly bridge between the United States, Italy, and Europe. There are opportunities for site visits, trips, and tours to locations of cultural, historical, and scholarly interest, as well as day-to-day exchanges with Residents and other distinguished visitors.

Each year, the Academy also offers a series of innovative and interdisciplinary public programs in the arts and humanities that highlight established and emerging scholars and artists. These events link the Academy with a broad network of international institutions and are notable for their diversity of presentation and media, and for their creative use of the Academy’s buildings and gardens.

The Academy’s library, including a Rare Book Room, serves an international community of scholars and has extensive collections in ancient Mediterranean archaeology and art; Greek and Latin literature; ancient topography, including the history of the City of Rome; ancient religions; and related fields. Its photographic archive and archaeological study collection also are accessible to artists, scholars, and other researchers.

Academy Fellows, Residents, and other community members have significantly shaped the worlds of art and scholarship, winning important recognition for their contributions, including 4 Nobel Prizes, 28 MacArthur Fellowships, 8 Pritzker Prizes, 6 Grammy Awards, 56 Pulitzer Prizes, 21 National Medal of the Arts Awards, 380 Guggenheim Fellowships, and a National Humanities Medal.

The mission of the American Academy in Rome is based on equal access and the open exchange of ideas. At AAR, we believe that diversity, inclusion, accessibility, and equal access are fundamental requirements for

scholars and artists to thrive and achieve their full potential. As an institution abroad, we realize it is even more critical to represent the diverse composition of the United States. Over the past decades, AAR has become an increasingly diverse and global community, a trend that has been beneficial to all Fellows and community members. The Academy fosters a democratic model in which all individuals are valued for their talent and vision.

Organization and Governance

Chartered by an Act of Congress in 1905, the Academy is the only foreign academy among the many in Rome that is not primarily supported by its government. As a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization incorporated in the District of Columbia, operating in New York State, the Academy is supported almost entirely by gifts and grants from individuals, foundations, and corporations, by net proceeds of annual fundraising events in both New York and Rome, and by the membership fees of leading American colleges, universities, and other organizations concerned with the arts and humanities.

The Academy's historic site sits on the highest hill within Rome's ancient walls. It comprises 11 acres and eight buildings. The central, signature building, designed by McKim, Mead & White, opened in 1914 and houses residential accommodations, studios and studies, an exhibition gallery, library, administrative offices, and communal rooms. Nearby, the Villa Aurelia – a Baroque landmark built around 1650 – and its 3.8 acres of gardens are used for Academy conferences, public receptions, concerts, and other programs.

The President works from the Academy's New York office along with 17 staff members. The annual Rome Prize juried competitions are administered from New York, as are trustee relations, fundraising, finance and investment management, information technology, planning, maintenance, and historic preservation for the Rome properties.

The Academy Director in Rome reports to the President, provides intellectual and managerial leadership for all activities and programs in Rome, and oversees a culturally and linguistically diverse staff of approximately 60 people. In turn, the Heiskell Arts Director, the Mellon Professor of Classical Studies, and the Drue Heinz Librarian report to the Academy Director. Together, they steward the intellectual, cultural, and social community and help build connections across and between scholarly and artistic disciplines. The Director and the heads of the two schools typically serve one or two staggered two- to three-year terms and are themselves recognized scholars or artists.

The Academy is governed by a 42-member Board of Trustees. Trustees serve for up to four three-year terms. The board meets as a whole three times a year, with much of its work conducted through committees. Standing board committees include: Executive, Nominating, Joint Committee on Classical Studies and Fine Arts; Finance; Audit; Committee on Fellowships; Development; Plant, Planning and Preservation; Library; and Publications.

In FY2022, the Academy had operating revenues and support of approximately \$12 million. Roughly half of this came from designated endowment income, one-third from fundraising, and the rest from rental income, tuition and fees, and miscellaneous income. Although the institution operates on tight margins, it has balanced its operating budget for many years and is debt-free. At the end of 2021, the Academy's endowment totaled more than \$152 million.

For further information, please visit www.aarome.org.

Position Summary

The President is the chief executive officer of the American Academy in Rome and is ultimately accountable for all aspects of its performance, ensuring that it continues to play a critical role in advancing the arts and humanities. They will have a nuanced intellect, a global mindset, and the ability to be a compelling advocate for the Academy and its mission. The President will partner with the staff and Board to refine AAR's strategy and raise the visibility of the Academy and the Rome Prize, while at the same time building AAR's organizational capacity and growing its financial resources. Key to the ongoing success of the Academy will be the President's ability to foster a healthy, inclusive organization where diversity of thought and background are valued; to expand the Academy's influence and impact in both the United States and Italy; and to accelerate the Academy's ability to garner significant support from both institutional and individual donors.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Reports to The Board of Trustees

Direct reports Director, Rome
Chief Financial Officer
Director of Communications
Vice President of Development
Director, Programs (Rome Prize Competition)

Other key relationships Individual and institutional donors
The Society of Fellows
Leaders of adjacent cultural institutions in the United States, Italy, and broader Europe

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Organizational Leadership:** The President will be accountable for ensuring that the Academy has the organizational culture, structure, talent, systems, policies, procedures, and financial wherewithal to deliver on its mission. The task of creating a cohesive, empowered, highly collaborative organization is complicated by the fact that the Academy operates in two different countries with very different mores and norms.
- **Impact and Influence:** The President will be a compelling and committed advocate for the arts and humanities in general, and will for the work of the Academy and its Fellows and Residents in particular. They will work to elevate the profile of the Academy, driving the development of distinctive programming and expanding the Academy's convening power. The President will serve as the public face of the Academy in a range of settings, articulating the value of its work and the singular importance of its mission.
- **Resource Building:** The President will serve as the chief fundraiser for the Academy, and thus will be responsible for cultivating, soliciting, and husbanding both individual and institutional donors. In addition, they will ensure that the development function at the Academy is highly effective and has the resources it needs to continue to grow annual giving and deliver a successful capital campaign, which will be launched sometime after their arrival.

IDEAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Leadership Experience

Senior leadership experience within a comparable organization of similar complexity and scale. Demonstrated strengths in building effective organizational structures and managing people.

Subject Matter Expertise

Credibility and standing in one or more of the Academy's disciplines, coupled with intellectual curiosity about the full range of arts and humanities. A love for Italian history, culture, and language is highly desirable.

Fundraising Prowess

Significant experience in institutional advancement. Enthusiasm for fundraising. A strong track record in securing individual, foundation, corporate, and government funding.

External Engagement

Exceptional communication skills and public presence. Ability to articulate persuasively the case for supporting innovative artists, writers, and scholars. Knowledge and experience in new information and communication technologies, particularly as they relate to content dissemination, brand building, and public engagement would be an asset.

Demonstrated Commitment to the Values of Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion

Has had meaningful impact on diversity and inclusion within a complex organization serving a large and varied set of stakeholders. Has demonstrated a commitment to including and engaging historically underserved communities.

Governance Expertise

Has reported to or interacted substantively with a Board of Trustees.

CRITICAL LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES

Acting Strategically

The President will provide dynamic, imaginative leadership, including charting a path forward to raise the visibility and public profile of the Academy and the Rome Prize. As the chief executive officer, the President:

- Identifies and proposes potential changes to the Academy's strategy or direction while also considering their implications across different parts of the organization, taking care to consider the operational and cultural differences between the United States and Italy.
- Brings new thinking that challenges assumptions and conventional wisdom.
- Contributes to the development of an organizational strategy for the Academy based on an understanding of the socio-economic trends impacting the arts and humanities.
- Appreciates and communicates the trends and environmental shifts occurring in both the United States and Italy over a three-plus-year horizon that pose challenges to the Academy's current strategy.

Leading People

As the chief executive officer of a United States organization that has its main operations in Italy, the President will be a culturally agile, skilled, and inspiring leader of a staff that is spread across two continents. To ensure that the Academy is unified around its strategic priorities and is a cohesive, collaborative, and highly functioning organization, the President:

- Communicates the vision and purpose of the Academy to internal stakeholders with enthusiasm and passion.
- Demonstrates consistency, authenticity, and empathy in interactions with the staff and the senior leadership team, building trust, empowerment, and collaboration across the organization.
- Promotes cross-organizational collaboration to build or reinforce alignment around the organization's purpose, vision, and direction.
- Creates organizational structures and practices that enable people within the organization to work to their highest and best use, deliver meaningful results, grow as professionals, and find fulfillment in their work.

Exhibiting Cultural Agility

The President is charged with ensuring a robust and diverse community of Fellows and Residents in Rome as well as with building strong partnerships with allied public and private institutions, both inside and outside the United States, with a demonstrated ability to lead a diverse group of people and foster an inclusive community. As such, the President:

- Demonstrates an understanding and appreciation for American and Italian culture, and for the essential role that both the arts and humanities play in advancing the human condition.
- Celebrates the distinctive contributions of different cultures and disciplines and, at the same time, advances opportunities for unique synergies that the Academy's operating model affords. Establishes ground rules and promotes mutual respect and equity across functional, disciplinary, and geographic boundaries.

OTHER PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Energy and stamina.

THE SEARCH PROCESS

The American Academy in Rome is eager to receive input that will help it build a pool of talented individuals. To that end, the Search Committee welcomes your comments, inquiries, applications, and nominations, which may be submitted via the confidential search mailbox: AARpresident@spencerstuart.com.