



## W. M. Keck Foundation Director of Research

### About The Huntington

Located in [San Marino, California](#), the 207-acre [Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens](#) (“The Huntington”) shares its world-renowned collections to support scholarship, foster learning, inspire creativity, and offer transformative experiences for diverse audiences. Founded in 1919, The Huntington is unique in the world, arguably the only actively collecting institution with three superlative collections comprising a world-renowned library, fine art museum, and botanical gardens featuring rare and endangered botanical species—each made available for research, education, and visitor enjoyment and engagement.

Led by President [Karen R. Lawrence](#), The Huntington has some 500 full-time and part-time staff who serve the institution, assisted by more than 1,200 [volunteers](#). The Huntington is a nonprofit institution, supported by gifts and grants from individuals, corporations, foundations, and government agencies, and by private endowment. The annual operating budget is approximately \$60 million, and the endowment is about \$700 million.

Each year, The Huntington:

- Provides nearly 2,000 scholars with access to a world-class collection of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, paintings, prints, sculpture, and decorative arts.
- Awards \$2 million in fellowships (through a peer-review process) to scholars for advanced humanities research.
- Educates thousands of schoolchildren and their teachers in art, history, literature, and botanical science through special tours and programs.
- Organizes special exhibitions to enhance the visitor experience, interpret the collections, and facilitate learning.
- Hosts more than 800,000 visitors.

The Huntington has never been more dynamic, more ambitious, or aspirational, having recently launched a [Strategic Plan](#), covering the fiscal years 2023-27. The plan outlines four strategic priorities:

- Purposefully grow collections and magnify their impact,
- Expand access, engagement, and education for a broader public, digitally and in-person,
- Be leaders for a sustainable world, and
- Use collections to provide multidisciplinary contexts for contemporary challenges.

It also sets forth six Strategic Commitments focusing on: collaboration and cross-collection synergies; employee wellbeing; [diversity, equity, and inclusion](#); external partnerships; investments in technology; and stewardship of financial and physical resources.

The institution is governed by a [seven-member Board of Trustees and a 60-member Board of Governors](#). Although the Board of Trustees retains fiduciary responsibilities, the Board of Governors works closely with the Trustees to support The Huntington's mission and the priorities and commitments outlined in the new Strategic Plan. Standing committees of the Board of Governors that support the work of each activity area of the institution include the Research Committee of the Board of Governors.

## **About the Role**

The Huntington invites applications and nominations for the position of W. M. Keck Director of Research, effective fall of 2022.

The Director of Research is the singular position at The Huntington dedicated to fostering advanced research in the humanities, cultivating a vibrant and diverse community of international scholars, and providing a stimulating environment for humanistic inquiry and dialogue. This program builds upon the foundations of over a century's institutional commitment to promoting excellence and innovation in advanced humanities research. The director collaborates with colleagues across the institution to provide avenues for sharing the insights of collections-based research with diverse audiences.

The Director of Research is responsible for developing, planning, and implementing a comprehensive humanities [research program](#), consisting of [research fellowships](#), academic conferences, and public lectures. The ideal candidate will be someone with broad intellectual interests and a commitment to the unique possibilities for connecting people and ideas at a place like The Huntington. Additionally, the candidate will be an individual committed to increasing the diversity of The Huntington's scholars and scholarly projects and magnifying the impact of its collections. They will play a significant role in envisioning the future of the humanities research program and translating its importance for a range of audiences, specialist to diverse publics. The Director of Research reports to the President and is a member of the President's Senior Staff, which plays an important role in leading The Huntington, including engaging with its Board of Trustees and Board of Governors. The position oversees a budget of approximately \$4 million and five direct reports.

The Director of Research will demonstrate a background of working directly with people from diverse racial, ethnic, geographic, and socioeconomic backgrounds, using a welcoming, inclusive, and accessible approach.

## **Essential Duties**

- Oversees a comprehensive humanities research program, fostering individual scholars and inspiring excellence and innovation in the wider arena of advanced humanities research.
- Cultivates a vibrant and diverse community of international scholars and creates a stimulating and collegial environment for the pursuit of humanistic inquiry.
- Manages the selection process for [visiting research fellows](#) and research conferences, ensuring a diversity of scholars and programs, and oversees the activities of 200 short-term and 30 long-term research fellows in residence annually.

- Develops a program of humanities lectures and conferences across multiple platforms that illuminate Huntington collections or are based on scholarly research conducted at The Huntington.
- Activates programs in which scholars draw on humanistic perspectives to provide contexts for understanding key issues facing society today.
- Works collaboratively with the Directors of the [Library](#), [Art](#), and [Botanical](#) collections and with the [Director of Education and Public Programs](#) to advance The Huntington's research mission and to magnify the impact of the collections by expanding access and engagement.
- Enhances the impact and visibility of The Huntington's scholarly programs, actively promoting them to institutional, regional, national, and international constituencies through formal and informal channels.
- Cultivates and stewards The Huntington's community of stakeholders, working closely with the Advancement Division to build engagement and investment in the research program.
- Serves as the primary liaison to the Research Committee of the Board of Governors.
- Maintains and enhances existing collaborative research programs with neighboring and other academic institutions and develops new partnerships.
- Collaborates with the Directors of Research at The Huntington's peer institutions, including the FAHN group (Folger Shakespeare Library, American Antiquarian Society, and the Newberry Library), IRLA (Independent Research Libraries Association), and the Fellowship Directors Forum.
- Serves as the intellectual spokesperson for The Huntington's research program to foundations and other funding agencies. In coordination with Advancement, generates proposals for funding from prospective supporters, including individuals, corporate sponsors, and foundations.
- Oversees the division's budget and research endowment funds for effective use and long-term stability.
- This position requires travel to academic conferences, peer institutions, colleges and universities, and funding agencies to engage the academic community and promote the activities and reputation of The Huntington.

### **Required Skills and Abilities**

- Strategic vision, creativity, and imagination to support the growth of the Research Division in conjunction with The Huntington's mission and strategic plan.
- Outstanding oral and written communication skills with the ability to communicate clearly and effectively with specialist audiences and stakeholders, as well as the Board of Governors, staff, and general public.
- Demonstrated success in motivating, developing, and coaching staff and providing effective management and delegation in a complex and dynamic environment.
- Passion for and a history of achievement in the areas of institutional diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Ability to foster and contribute to a highly collaborative working environment.
- Enthusiasm for extending the reach of research programs through new platforms for publicly engaged scholarship.
- Proven administrative and financial management skills related to supervising departmental staff, planning, and managing the departmental budget and endowment funds.
- Exceptional organizational and task management skills. Ability to work calmly and effectively under pressure, respond to changing demands, and prioritize while managing multiple concurrent projects.

## Qualifications

- Doctoral degree in a humanities discipline
- Academic prominence in a humanities discipline as demonstrated by a significant publication record and the achievement of tenure or its equivalent
- Minimum of three years of administrative/academic leadership in a university, library, or other nonprofit research organization
- Demonstrated ability to work across traditional academic fields and a commitment to translating humanities research beyond academic audiences and communicating the relevance of humanities scholarship in a changing world
- Integrity and cultural fluency in all work and interactions, with a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Highly developed interpersonal skills and ability to engage socially
- Knowledge of research strategies, methods, and techniques in a humanities discipline and experience with documentary research methodologies and collections-based inquiry
- Ability to work well with a diverse cross-section of people, including scholars, board members, members, volunteers, and visitors
- Creativity, energy, vision, and a collegial approach

For consideration, please send all nominations and applications, which should consist of a curriculum vitae and a letter of interest, to:



Shelly Weiss Storbeck, Global Education Practice Lead  
and Managing Director  
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For more information, please visit The Huntington's home page at [huntington.org](http://huntington.org).

*The Huntington believes that everyone is entitled to equal employment opportunity. It does not discriminate against qualified employees or applicants because of race (including traits historically associated with race, including but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists), color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or related medical conditions), gender (including gender identity, gender expression), transgender or transitioning status, religious creed (including all aspects of religious belief, observance, and practice, including religious dress and grooming practices), physical or mental disability, age, legally protected medical condition (including genetic characteristics, cancer, or a record or history of cancer), marital status, registered domestic partner status, military or veteran status, sexual orientation, genetic information, employees on public assistance, or any other characteristic protected by local, state, or federal law. Equal employment opportunity will be extended to all persons in all aspects of the employer-employee relationship, including recruitment, hiring, upgrading, training, promotion, transfer, discipline, layoff, recall, and termination. The Huntington also prohibits discrimination based on the perception that an individual is in any of these protected categories or is associated with a person who has been or is perceived as being in any of these protected categories.*