

Position Announcement



Executive Director St. Simons Land Trust St. Simons Island, Georgia



Overview. The Chason Group, Inc. has been engaged to lead an executive search for a professional to serve as executive director of the St. Simons Land Trust based in St. Simons Island, Georgia. Tim Chason and Randy Cardoza are working with the organization's leadership to coordinate the search.

SSLT Mission. Organized in 2001 by community visionaries, SSLT's mission is to preserve the island's natural and scenic character and to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations. Like more than 1,600 land trusts across the country, SSLT works with willing property owners to preserve their land using tools that include: conservation easements, donations of land and outright purchases of land through tax advantaged "bargain sales."

About SSLT. The non-profit organization is led by an 18 member volunteer board of directors and a larger advisory council. The 2019 operating budget is approximately \$1 million which includes funds for professional staff, property stewardship, maintenance, property acquisition and easements, and research.

Over 1,300 members make financial contributions each year to SSLT and more than 150 dedicated and hardworking volunteers assist in the preservation of the island's natural environment and culture.

Key Initiatives. SSLT uses various conservation transaction types to protect land forever. The projects undertaken are carefully vetted against a set of criteria that include ecological value, public access/benefit, and fundraising feasibility. SSLT's future focus entails effective stewardship and management of a robust portfolio of properties.

Current areas of focus include:

- *North end of St. Simons:* Guale Preserve and Cannon's Point – has the most acreage available for protection left on the Island.
- *South end of St. Simons:* There are still many opportunities for greenspace on the south end of St. Simons. These properties tend to be smaller in scale and more expensive in price.
- *Building trails:* SSLT plays an important facilitator role in the construction of trails on St. Simons.

SSLT / Position Announcement – Executive Director

The Position. The executive director of SSLT is responsible for leading and directing all aspects of the Land Trust, including managing finances, overseeing fundraising, communications, land stewardship, managing and leading staff, and building positive working relationships with the board of directors, community, stakeholders and donors.

Candidates applying for the position should have a Bachelor's degree, with a Master's degree preferred from an accredited college; five to ten years of executive management leadership experience in the business, government or non-profit sector, or a combination of these; and a proven extended tenure in leading an organization through visionary growth and sustainable fundraising.

Key skills sets required of the position include an innovative, creative and strategic thinker who has experience in developing relevant programs and goals to enhance the quality of life on St. Simons Island. A team builder and leader who will effectively represent SSLT in various settings are also key traits desired of candidates. The executive director should also have a successful track record of working with a board of directors, governments, high-level donors and stakeholders.

Organizational Culture. The executive director will be held accountable for developing an organizational culture that exudes collaboration and partnerships for the global success of SSLT. The professional will also serve as the key resource in relating policies, strategies and various courses of action – internal and external - to the executive committee and board of directors, professional team, external partners, donors and public - to achieve SSLT's goals. Revenue maintenance and growth, continuously strengthening relationships with existing patrons and developing connections with prospective donors will also be a significant part of the successful candidate's responsibilities.

How to Apply. Candidates interested in the SSLT executive director position may upload a cover letter addressed to Tim Chason, as well as a copy of their resume, at www.thechasongroup.com. The deadline to submit the documents is August 29, 2019. Anticipated start date for the new executive is October/November.

For more information on the position, please contact Tim Chason at 404.735.0540 or Randy Cardoza at 404.661.9438



The annual SSLT Oyster Roast is a major fundraiser for the organization.