

A national search is underway for a new

Metropolitan Historical Commission Executive Director

Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County



NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Metro Nashville

Metro Nashville Government is an employer of choice with over 10,700 employees in one of the most exciting cities in our nation. Nashville is a thriving, vibrant city in an enormous growth period. It's the capital of Tennessee, the county seat of Davidson County, and the state's largest city. At a current population of 712,000 residents, Nashville is the 21st largest city in the United States. In recent years, Nashville has become a destination for large scale corporate expansion and relocation. Between the booming economy, vibrant cultural life, unique neighborhoods, and great people working to make the city even greater, Nashville is well-positioned to maintain its success as a first-class U.S. city and ascend even further.

Nashville is a place that understands its past and eagerly anticipates its future. Visitors come to learn about country music and civil rights history while enjoying great restaurants, museums, and of course, live music. Residents enjoy the neighborhoods, abundant parks and green space, great schools, and an eclectic mix of small businesses. There is truly something for everyone in Nashville.

Nashville is a diverse and international city that includes a large and prominent African American community as well as significant Latino, Kurdish, Middle Eastern, African, and Latino communities. Students from more than 130 countries are educated in Metro Nashville Public Schools, and Nashville is the proud home to multiple historically Black colleges and universities including Tennessee State University, Fisk University, and Meharry Medical College.

As the state's capital, Nashville is home to the state government. It's also home to the Tennessee Titans, Nashville SC soccer team, and the Nashville Predators. Health care, tech, and higher education dominate the industry here with major employers including Vanderbilt University & Medical Center, HCA Health, Bridgestone North America, and Asurion. Oracle recently announced its plans to relocate its Global Headquarters to Nashville.

Governing Structure



Metro Nashville has a "strong mayor" form of municipal government, in which the elected mayor is the city's chief executive and is independent of the council.

Both the Mayor and City Council Members are elected every four years during non-partisan elections. City operations are handled by executive departments that report to the Mayor, as well as elected officials and appointed boards, commissions & agencies.

Coordination with the Mayor as well as Metro Council is ongoing and a regular part of managing department activities.

The 15-member, Mayor-appointed Historical Commission is responsible for hiring an executive director and overseeing their leadership of the Historic Preservation Department.

Metropolitan Historical Commission

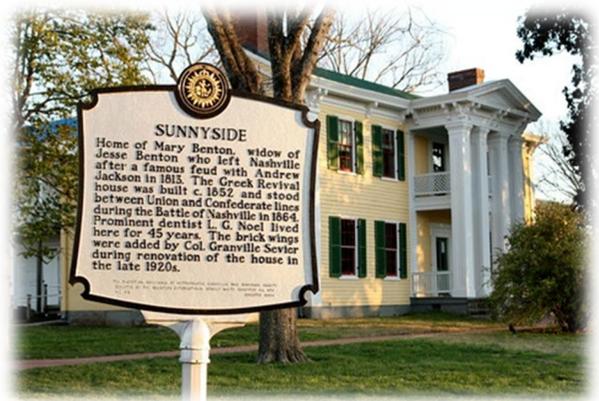
The [Metropolitan Historical Commission](#) (MHC) is a municipal historic preservation agency working to document history, save and reuse the built environment, and make the public more aware of the necessity and advantages of preservation. The MHC preserves, protects, and documents the history, historic places, buildings, and neighborhoods of Davidson County through education, technical assistance, and advocacy. The commission is composed of fifteen citizens of Davidson County who are appointed by the mayor. It was created in 1966 and has operated with a professional staff since 1973. The MHC also works closely with the Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission, created in 1978, which administers historic zoning regulations in local preservation and conservation districts.

The MHC safeguards Davidson County's historic places, neighborhoods, and cultural resources through:

- Research & Documentation - Conducting surveys, photography, and historical research to support accurate restorations, National Register nominations, and the establishment of historic districts.
- Preservation Projects - Overseeing adaptive reuse of landmark properties such as Union Station, Customs House, Fort Negley, Nashville City Cemetery, Warner Parks, and Omohundro Water Works.
- Outreach & Education - Publishing technical guides, managing historical markers, and co-sponsoring signature events like the Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture (since 1981) and the annual Preservation Awards (over 30 years running).
- Community Engagement - Supporting neighborhood designations, offering technical assistance to property owners, and helping residents navigate renovation and conservation.

The Position

The Executive Director of MHC is responsible for providing strategic leadership, operational management, and professional expertise to advance Nashville-Davidson County's historic preservation mission. Reporting to the Board of Commissioners and the Mayor of Nashville, the Executive Director oversees staff, programs, and community initiatives to protect, interpret, and promote the county's historic resources.



Essential Functions

The Executive Director performs the following essential functions within the framework of Metropolitan Historical Commission. The duties and responsibilities listed below are not to be interpreted as exclusive or all-inclusive. Other duties and responsibilities may be required of the position.

Leadership & Administration

- Directs the operations of the Historic Preservation Department under the oversight of the Historical Commission.
- Supervises a staff of nine full-time and two part-time employees.
- Manages the department's annual budget and develops strategies for improvements and funding requests.
- Provides professional guidance to the Commission, the Davidson County Historian, and community stakeholders.

- Builds strong partnerships with the Mayor's Office, Metro Council, state representatives, and other Metro departments (Parks, Planning, Finance, NDOT, Schools, Water, Codes, Legal, and General Services).

Historic Preservation & Community Engagement

- Advises Metro departments and community partners on historic preservation issues.
- Develops and maintains educational programming, outreach, and community relations initiatives.
- Serves as ex-officio on nonprofit Friends Groups boards supporting historic preservation, including Nashville City Cemetery Association, Friends of Fort Negley, Friends of Two Rivers, Friends of Aattifama' Archaeological Park, Friends of Fort Nashborough, and the Nashville Historical Foundation.
- Applies for and manages federal, state, and local grants supporting historic resources.

Historic Sites & Program Oversight

- Oversees the management of the c.1822 Nashville City Cemetery (National Register site) and Davidson County's inventory of ~550 cemeteries.
- Works with the National Park Service's Surplus Properties Program, including biennial reporting for city-owned properties such as Customs House and Union Station.
- Maintains and updates signature programs:
 - Historical Marker Program
 - Nashville Conference on African American History and Culture
 - Preservation Awards
 - Nashville Sites (mobile-friendly app)
 - Countywide Survey of Historic Resources

Regulatory & Advisory Duties

- Provides comment on federal Section 106 Review projects to the Tennessee Historical Commission.
- Reviews National Register nominations for Davidson County properties and submits recommendations to the TN State Review Board.
- Reviews proposals in MDHA Redevelopment Districts to assess impacts to historic resources.
- Works with the Tennessee State Archaeologist to preserve archaeological sites and artifacts on public property.

Publications & Storytelling

- Oversees the development of brochures, booklets, and books that share Nashville's historic narrative in a comprehensive and accessible way.



Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in history, historic preservation, architectural history, or a related field.
- Five years of progressively responsible experience working in historic preservation or related field.

NOTE: Per Metro Ordinance NO. SO94-1078. All employees of the Metropolitan Government shall be residents of the State of Tennessee or become residents of the state within six (6) months of employment as a prerequisite to employment with the Metropolitan Government.

The Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate will possess preferred experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities as follows:

- Advanced degree in history, historic preservation, architectural history, or a related field.
- In-depth knowledge of the history of Nashville-Davidson County and Tennessee.
- Experience with federal, state, and local historic preservation laws and policies.
- Demonstrated ability to provide strategic leadership and manage staff, budgets, and programs.
- Demonstrated ability to build and maintain collaborative partnerships with governmental, nonprofit, and community stakeholders.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including public speaking and publication development.
- Experience managing grants and capital projects related to historic resources.

Compensation

Starting salary range for this position is \$126,923 - \$165,000 annually, with placement within the range depending on qualifications and experience. Compensation will be augmented by an excellent [benefits package](#) which includes a [service pension plan](#).

Metro Nashville is fully committed to equal employment opportunity for all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, predisposing genetic characteristic, gender identity and expression, pregnancy, veteran, or military status, marital/familial/partnership/caregiver status, status as a victim of domestic violence, stalking and/or sex offenses, or any legally protected basis.

To be Considered

Applicants must complete an [online application](#) by 11:59 p.m. (Central) on February 1, 2026. Resumes should be attached but will not be accepted in lieu of the online application.

Confidential inquiries regarding this career opportunity should be directed to:

Metro Nashville Government, Human Resources
Lisa Mason, Manager of Talent Acquisition and Training
lisa.mason@nashville.gov or 615-862-6631

Nashville Metro is an equal opportunity employer that values diversity at all levels. All individuals, regardless of personal characteristics, are encouraged to apply. Requests for ADA accommodation for the recruitment process should be directed to Human Resources at (615)862-6640.

