

Job Title: Development Director

Reports to: Executive Director

Location: Flexible

ABOUT SVARA

SVARA is a traditionally radical yeshiva with a national, Queer-normative community made up of the brightest, boldest, and most courageous learners—many formerly alienated from Jewish life—who, through SVARA’s accessible but rigorous approach to Talmud study, unique pedagogy, and intensely diverse bet midrash, become players in the Jewish future. Recognized for our faculty, led by Rosh Yeshiva and founder, Rabbi Benay Lappe, and named on Slingshot’s 10 to Watch List for being one of the most dynamic organizations creating change in the Jewish community, SVARA offers a widening reach of programs, currently including teacher training, week-long summer retreats, day and weekend intensive programs, and online learning.

JOB DESCRIPTION

SVARA is seeking a Development Director to join our growing team in building toward our long-term sustainability. This person will be responsible for implementing our major gifts and annual giving strategy, in close partnership with our leadership team. They will build and nurture relationships among our national learning community. They will also guide our thought leadership work, seeking opportunities to amplify SVARA’s voice and producing articles and essays for internal and external audiences alike. This is a full-time, remote position reporting to the Executive Director and managing the Development Associate.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop and implement major gifts strategy to engage new and existing contributors in partnership with ED and Rosh Yeshiva
- Oversee all elements of annual giving, including donor acknowledgment, campaign planning and implementation, and monthly giving program
- Play a key role in soliciting individual gifts through virtual one-on-ones and in-person meetings (when safely possible)
- Create and implement community engagement events online
- Work closely with SVARA faculty and ED to develop and implement strategy for thought leadership including producing semi-regular reflection pieces on SVARA’s work, weekly Hot Off the Shtenders, etc
- Manage social media channels, ensuring high-quality, regular content is posted and maintain awareness of relevant content to share out from SVARA-niks

- Support grant writing and reporting processes, tracking deadline, and communications
- Generate quarterly stakeholder updates, highlighting program successes, and content insights
- Support board members, Rosh Yeshiva, and ED in fundraising activities, including assigning prospects and managing stewardship touchpoints
- Represent SVARA publically in speaking engagements and publications
- Ensure integrity of data in CRM

ABOUT YOU

- You're a savvy, strong communicator with excellent attention to detail and a command of grammar
- You are an experienced storyteller who loves drawing connections between learning, personal experience, and current-day contexts
- You aren't afraid of making an ask and have experience engaging and stewarding donor relationships on a national scale
- You bring attention and awareness to economic justice and equity in your approach to fundraising and development
- You're an innovative disruptor, who's familiar with anti-oppression frameworks and committed to building a liberatory, healed world
- You lead with self-awareness, groundedness, and humility
- You're flexible and able to pivot seamlessly when unexpected situations arise
- SVARA's approach to "traditionally radical" learning is compelling to you. You're committed to acknowledging and interrogating mechanisms of power and inequality in our work and in the world
- Extra bonus points if you're comfortable navigating Jewish texts beyond the introductory level, can decode Hebrew words and phrases, and are familiar with rabbinic text
- You're comfortable and excited about holding and fostering Queer-normative space

WHY YOU WANT TO WORK AT SVARA

- Our staff culture is joyful, informal, Queer-normative, and caring
- You'll get lots of opportunities to grow in both your Jewish learning and professional development
- You'll be part of a project that is recognized nationally for innovative and empowering approaches to Jewish education & learning



- You get to work with SVARA-niks around the country (and the world!)—the queerest, smartest, most radical humans on the planet (Okay, we’re biased...)

Salary and Scope

- This is a full-time position that plays an integral role in our collaborative team environment.
- This position can be based anywhere in the US.
- This is a salaried, exempt position with a salary range of \$75-90,000/yr and benefits.

Please submit your resume and cover letter to jobs@svara.org. We encourage you to apply soon. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

SVARA is an equal opportunity employer who supports workplace diversity. LGBTQIA+, people of color, and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.