



Executive Director, Tetiara Society, US

About Tetiara Society: Local Results with Global Implications

The atoll of Tetiara, located 33 miles north of Tahiti in French Polynesia, took 1.5 million years to become a teeming, diverse ecosystem. For over a thousand years, Tahitian society cultivated a balance that enabled their lush surroundings to flourish, and Tahitian royals chose this atoll as a second home. Tetiara subsequently passed from these royals to a number of private owners, and eventually to Marlon Brando in the 1960s. It is now owned by the Brando Trust, which has empowered the Tetiara Society to steward this precious ecosystem and disseminate their breakthrough solutions to the broader world. They have succeeded in ways rarely seen, and with its innovative research facility and education programs, they have pioneered a world-class model of island sustainability. **This story of success has profound, positive implications for vulnerable coastal communities across the globe.**

The primary mandate of [Tetiara Society](#) (TS) is the preservation of Tetiara and the organization's local programs, but that's just the beginning. As a wondrous living laboratory, the inspiration of Tetiara is rippling out to achieve even greater impact, where TS collaborates globally to advance efforts in marine research, conservation sustainability, education, and cultural understanding. Formed in 2010 as a US 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the work of the past decade has been groundbreaking. A remarkable research laboratory hosts marine scientists from around the world, where innovation abounds, and every initiative works to flip the perceived disadvantages of remoteness into advantages. TS has pioneered a number of environmentally friendly eradication programs, achieving astounding results with mosquito, rat, and invasive ant projects. Seabird and crab populations are on the rise. The sea turtle nesting population has exploded. These examples and others (see [Impact Report](#)) have made Tetiara a shining example of conservation success, and the organization is quickly becoming a center for research and innovation, and a data hub for other likeminded organizations.

The impressive operations run by Tetiara Society include: Tetiara Society FP, the French Polynesian sister organization that carries out the society's scientific research, educational and cultural programs on the island; the [Blue Climate Initiative](#), which works on ocean based solutions to climate change and raising indigenous voices; and [Honu Subs](#) research submersibles, to be operated by TS in support of a new deep ocean research center, enabling access down to 4,000 feet at a fraction of the traditional expense. The atoll is also home to [The Brando](#) luxury resort, which enjoys a very active partnership with Tetiara Society. The synergy of these complex relationships has resulted in a unique and deeply collaborative partnership between the landowner, the for-profit business, and the nonprofit mission.

The Opportunity & Position Overview

This represents an extraordinary opportunity for the right person to advance Tetiaroa Society to the next level as its inaugural Executive Director (ED) in the US, building upon 14 years of programmatic successes. The ED will report to and engage with the Board of Directors in realizing their vision and ensuring that plans are implemented. That said, the ED's role with respect to activities on Tetiaroa will be strategic in nature, rather than involvement with day-to-day management and operations. This is a heavily externally focused role, with an emphasis on **fundraising, engagement, and leadership** with both local initiatives and as a convener on the global stage.

Tetiaroa Society needs an ED who can tell its story and articulate why they do what they do. This ED will be the principal ambassador and visible face of the organization, building and nurturing relationships with partners, funders, and other stakeholders. A plethora of internal and external resources will be available to the ED for leveraging to their fullest potential. TS already possesses an amazing network of experts in many different fields, as well as a significant number of allies and donors on The Brando guest list. Furthermore, because the resort contributes a portion of guest fees to cover the organization's operational costs, the ED will have the luxury of fundraising that goes directly into programming with the potential for both local and global impact, as well as a healthy network of existing philanthropic partners.

The ideal candidate will join the Board in its desire to have a demonstrable positive impact on both Tetiaroa and the Blue Planet. This requires a deep and abiding respect for nature, passion for environmental stewardship, and respect for the challenges and opportunities facing indigenous cultures. The Board of Directors is sophisticated and highly influential, yet humble in recognizing its ability to benefit from implementing best practices, and thus greatly welcomes a leader with proven experience in nonprofit management to guide Tetiaroa Society forward constructively.

Key Responsibilities

The following reflects the primary responsibilities expected of the ED, but is not exhaustive. The ED may be required to perform additional duties to fulfill the mission of the organization.

Fundraising and Development:

- Own all aspects of fundraising to both support the budget and build its already significant endowment, including prospect identification, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship
- Develop and execute strategies to build and diversify revenue streams, including individual major gifts, foundation grants, corporate partnerships, and public-private partnerships
- Develop and execute a strategy for regular donor communications, with a mindset of building and maintaining sincere relationships

Engagement and Brand Positioning:

- Serve as the public face and Chief Storyteller, expanding awareness and understanding of Tetiaroa Society, elevating its reputation as a designer of innovative solutions
- Lead all engagement with influencers, partners, funders, and other key external stakeholders, functioning as a convener to ignite collective action
- Advocate for sustainable practices both on Tetiaroa and globally, using the atoll as a model for environmental stewardship
- Organize and represent Tetiaroa Society at conferences, events, and in the media to promote its mission and initiatives
- Strengthen existing partnerships and build new collaborations with global conservation organizations, scientific institutions, indigenous communities, and governmental agencies

Strategic Leadership:

- Actively engage with the Board of Directors, serving as a key advisor and facilitating informed decision-making
- Develop and implement the strategic plan in collaboration with the Board of Directors
- Ensure alignment of Tetiaroa Society's and Tetiaroa Society FP's programs and activities with the organization's overall mission and long-term goals
- Provide strategic oversight over Tetiaroa Society FP's programs and operations and maintain awareness of all activities
- Maintain relationship with The Brando as a critical resource for operations and fundraising
- Foster a culture of collaboration and innovation

Qualifications

- Experience in senior leadership roles within nonprofit organizations
- Experience navigating complex relationships and leading by influence in a matrixed structure
- Experience collaborating in strategic planning and translating vision into actionable plans
- Direct and proven experience with prospect identification, cultivation, and solicitation, resulting in increasing funding for an organization with diverse revenue streams
- Experience stewarding donor relationships and maintaining donor communications
- Experience representing an organization externally and leading engagement efforts to heighten brand awareness and develop allies in an organization's ecosystem
- Personal or professional connection to aspects of the mission, with a deep appreciation for conservation and environmental sustainability
- Possess a mindset of curiosity, innovation, collaboration, and action
- Adaptability and resilience in working in remote or challenging environments, with occasional travel to Tetiaroa, French Polynesia
- Role to be based in the US, preferably west coast

- *Consideration will be given to candidates with transferable skills and demonstrating comparable qualifications*

Compensation

The salary for this position is currently estimated at \$175,000, with flexibility depending on experience, including consideration of a performance bonus.

To Apply

Tetiaroa Society has retained OE Consulting to support this search. To apply, please submit a résumé and thoughtful cover letter that explains your interest and addresses your relevant qualifications. Applicants may expect an email from OE Consulting confirming receipt.

Please refrain from contacting TS about this opportunity. Direct any inquiries to OE Consulting at (tetiaroasociety@oeconsulting.com). Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.