The New School President

The solutions to the problems of the next decades will define the next centuries. The creativity, scholarship, and sense of responsibility of the rising generation must know no boundaries.

The New School is uniquely positioned to help nurture and develop individuals with a hunger for new ideas, the courage to challenge the status quo, and the drive to be agents of change.

We are a preeminent intellectual and creative center for effective engagement in a world that demands better-designed objects, communications, systems, organizations, and policies to meet the evolving needs of global communities.

Our interdisciplinary academic and creative culture develops scholars and practitioners who can tackle such complex issues as the ethics of intelligent machines, the future of sustainability, the response to social inequities, and the shape of digital discourse. The New School is a university powered by design, heterodox social research, and performing arts, all shaped by a drive to create positive social change.

These are some of our changemakers—faculty and alumni, past and present—who have forever transformed their fields.
The New School seeks a President who understands the power of bold thinking and creative action. One who will lead an ongoing renewal of our courage to adapt as an institution and challenge ourselves as a community. An individual who will build on our university’s legacy and foundation and create a networked global learning community, working together to create a better world.

This leader will see the unique potential of students and faculty whose talents and drive could take them many places, but whose unconventional ambitions can only be met in this great city, whose energy and people join together in the classrooms, studios, and workshops that are The New School.

We are seeking a leader who will not only steward the needs of our students and our institution, but also champion the very idea that has animated our university for the last 100 years: The Power of the New.
THE NEW SCHOOL

NEVV SINCE 1919

In 1919, a few great minds imagined a school that would never settle for the status quo, one that would continuously redefine higher learning. The New School was born of that imagining. Today it is a future-facing university with a dynamic and highly differentiated academic profile shaped by its strong, distinctive schools and colleges:

» Parsons School of Design
» Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts
» College of Performing Arts
» The New School for Social Research
» Schools of Public Engagement
» Parsons Paris
» Open Campus, offering K-12, online, and continuing and executive education programs

AT A GLANCE

» Located in Greenwich Village, the heart of NYC, with a branch campus in Paris.
» Parsons School of Design, which makes up more than 50% of the university, is consistently ranked the #1 art and design school in the nation.
» Mannes School of Music and the School of Jazz and Contemporary Music are world-recognized leaders in music education.
» Offers more than 130 degree and diploma programs and majors and more than 50 minors.
» Has more than 10,000 degree-seeking students, taught by approximately 400 full-time and 2,000 part-time faculty members.
» Students come from all 50 states and 116 countries, making The New School the most international major U.S. university.
» The University Center at the heart of our campus is the largest LEED Gold-certified urban university building in the United States.
THE NEW SCHOOL

The New School is built on a commitment to academic freedom, tolerance, and experimentation.

MISSION

The New School prepares students to understand, contribute to, and succeed in a rapidly changing society, thus making the world a better and more just place. The New School will ensure that its students develop both the skills that a sound education provides and the competencies essential for success and leadership in the emerging creative economy. The New School will also lead in generating practical and theoretical knowledge that enables people to better understand the world and improve conditions for local and global communities.

VISION

The New School is and will remain a university where design and social research drive approaches to studying the issues of our time, including democracy, urbanization, technological change, economic empowerment, sustainability, migration, and globalization. The university will be the preeminent intellectual and creative center for effective engagement in a world that increasingly demands better-designed objects, communication, systems, and organizations to meet social needs.

The New School’s vision aligns with shifts in the global economy, society, and environment. Creativity, innovation, and a desire to challenge the status quo will affect what and how the school teaches and the intellectual ambitions of the university itself. And social engagement should orient students’ academic experiences to help them become critically engaged citizens, dedicated to solving problems and contributing to the public good.

EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

The New School’s educational approach focuses on and engages with critical contemporary issues. The university prioritizes humanity and culture in designing systems and environments to improve the human condition, an approach that draws on design thinking and the liberal, creative, and performing arts. Collaborative, project-based learning is at the center of The New School’s educational experience, and its programs take full advantage of the New York City location and connectivity to global urban centers.
KEY INITIATIVES

The New School is committed to educating and inspiring a new generation of transformational thinkers, makers, and doers. Several broad initiatives now underway are helping to advance this goal and engage a wider community.

The New Century Campaign
The New Century Campaign will maximize the university’s impact and build support for the next 100 years. Publicly launched in January 2019, the Campaign has already realized $175 million toward its goal of $250 million.

The Centennial Project
The New School is as much an idea as it is an institution—and it is perpetually restless as a consequence. The Centennial Project is a community-inclusive endeavor designed to renew the same courage to adapt that has characterized the school’s first 100 years. The project’s goal is to develop transformative ideas that will enable The New School to continue to lead higher education in the next century.

Expansion Initiatives
The New School is seizing the opportunity to broaden the impact of its distinctive educational programs and approaches: through expanded online degree and certificate programs (learn more), through collaborative new global academic partnerships built on leadership and innovation in art and design (learn more), and with new executive education programs that draw on design approaches to help leaders compete in a rapidly evolving professional landscape (learn more).
The New School is ideally positioned to prepare students to address the challenges of our time and of the future. It is poised to be a transformational leader in the landscape of higher education. We are seeking a President with the ambition to match this calling and to do something profound and life-changing for a distinctive university and its community. The next President should embody The New School’s values and be a person of broadly engaged intellect and genuine interdisciplinary curiosity. The President will foster excellence, creativity, and boldness to ensure that The New School builds on its distinctiveness as a groundbreaking institution with a 100-year legacy of embracing the New. We seek a President who will work closely with all members of the The New School to develop a clear vision for the university that generates internal alignment and external philanthropic support and partnership. The President will understand the larger issues facing higher education and lead innovation to meet those challenges. The President will be an inclusive leader who embraces diversity and believes deeply in community engagement.
**Key Responsibilities**

The President will lead the university in:

- Developing, articulating, and advancing an ambitious university vision and strategic priorities to further its mission and drive for excellence.
- Raising the university’s academic profile, leveraging its strengths, distinctive approaches, and core values.
- Significantly and continually strengthening the University’s financial health through fundraising and by diversifying revenue sources.
- Focusing The New School more fully on meeting student needs for greater accessibility, flexibility, services, and support.
- Engaging actively in campus life, developing relationships with students, faculty, and staff in ways that reinforce a sense of common purpose, shared experiences, and mutual respect.
- Modeling and nurturing candor and openness to community input in governing the university.
- Representing and advocating for The New School in public and prominent ways.

**Key Relationships**

The President reports to the Board of Trustees and oversees an executive team including the leaders of academics (the Provost), operations, enrollment and student success, development, marketing and communication, legal affairs and human resources, social justice, and global partnerships.

Significant relationships extend to faculty and students to enable the President to be an integral part of the community, engaged by its work and in its aspirations.

Other important relationships include staff, alumni, donors, academic and community partners, government and civic leaders, higher education peers, influencers, and thought leaders in New York City, across the country, and around the world.
The New School President

**BIG PICTURE THINKING**

The New School’s innovative and diverse set of academic programs, combined with its commitment to multidisciplinary learning and social justice values, represents an unprecedented opportunity to develop the next generation of global citizens. To help realize this opportunity, the President will:

- Understand the broader global context for higher education and major societal shifts that require adaptability
- Demonstrate the ambition, foresight, and capacity to chart and bring to fruition a groundbreaking course for The New School
- Be a thought leader, someone whose views are widely sought and respected in the public and professional domains

**LEADERSHIP**

The President will have the practical, emotional, and social skills to lead a university which continually strives for excellence, relevance, and accountability to its communities and the world at large. The President will respect diverse perspectives and cultures and be someone who:

- Welcomes divergent opinions, discussion, and debate
- Encourages bold thinking, consultation, and collaboration across and at all levels of the university
- Supports and empowers the university leadership team and faculty to advance shared goals that will have a measurable positive impact on The New School’s academic profile and across all areas of university management and operations
- Recognizes and values expertise and thought leadership in our faculty and all parts of the university

**COMMUNITY BUILDING**

An inspirational and passionate ambassador for The New School who embodies its mission and values, the President will:

- Seek opportunities to engage with the university community and participate actively on the campus
- Develop strong, authentic relationships and look for opportunities, large and small, to make and deepen connections
- Be an inspiring, trusted, empathetic leader with the ability to drive a sense of inclusiveness and respect
- Communicate widely, regularly, and in a clear, compelling manner in multiple modes and in ways that are both formal and informal
THE NEW SCHOOL
PRESIDENT

EXPERIENCE

The ideal candidate has deep professional experience that demonstrates:

» A fundamental commitment to the core university mission of teaching and learning

» A deep appreciation for excellence in scholarship and creative practice, ideally in areas that are differentiating strengths at The New School

» A track record of successful leadership through active partnership in a complex organizational environment

» A clear commitment to advancing equity, inclusivity, and social justice

» Enthusiasm and talent for building support through fundraising as well as successful work with boards, government and community leaders, organizations, and corporations

» Proven entrepreneurial capacity and a track record for innovation and strategic thinking that accrues institutional value

INQUIRIES

To apply or nominate an individual for this position, please send an email with resume and cover letter, if applicable, to NewSchoolPresident@SpencerStuart.com.