The Club Council
Private Club Consulting

The Club Council Announces:
Executive Director
The Casino
Chicago, IL

The Club

Founded in 1914 by Lucy McCormick Blair Linn, a prominent social visionary and member of one of Chicago's most historically influential families, The Casino is one of the city's most distinguished private social clubs. Located at 195 East Delaware Place, in the heart of Chicago's Gold Coast, the Club has served as a cherished gathering place for generations of Chicago families. Its distinctive Art Deco clubhouse, designed by architect Walter Frazier and established at its current location in 1928, reflects the Club's rich history, understated elegance, and timeless sophistication.

Renowned for its Gilded Age-inspired fine dining, extraordinary, personalized service, and engaging social and cultural programming, The Casino provides an intimate and welcoming environment for its sophisticated and discerning membership. The Club takes great pride in preserving its longstanding traditions while continually enhancing the member experience through gracious hospitality, meaningful connections, and memorable events. Since its inception, the Club's mission has remained unchanged: To provide an unequalled and congenial member experience.

At the heart of The Casino experience is its dedication to outstanding food and beverage offerings, gracious hospitality, and thoughtfully executed social events. From intimate dining experiences to elegant private gatherings and longstanding Club traditions, the emphasis remains on creating meaningful experiences and lasting relationships among members and their guests. Attention to detail, consistency, and an appreciation for the Club's heritage are central to its identity.

As The Casino looks toward the future, it remains committed to preserving the traditions and distinctive culture that have defined it for more than a century while thoughtfully evolving to meet the expectations of current and future generations. Its continued success is rooted in strong leadership, exceptional service, and a deep understanding of the personal connections that make the Club such a special place within Chicago's private club community.

The Opportunity

As the face of The Casino, the Executive Director must possess exceptional interpersonal skills, a gracious and engaging presence, and strong managerial expertise. Given the Club's distinguished and private nature, the highest level of professionalism, discretion, and confidentiality is essential. Members view the Executive Director as both a welcoming host and a trusted advisor when planning private events and gatherings. Success in this role requires the ability to cultivate meaningful, professional relationships with members while consistently delivering the personalized service, warmth, and attention to detail that define The Casino experience.

Working collaboratively with the Board of Directors and appropriate committees, the Executive Director will provide strategic and operational leadership across all aspects of the Club. This role requires a proactive, independent leader who exercises sound judgment, takes initiative, and confidently manages daily operations with minimal Board involvement while maintaining alignment with the Club's strategic priorities. Responsibilities include overseeing operations, maintaining the Club's historic facilities, and managing capital improvements. The Executive Director will also partner closely with the experienced Food & Beverage Director to ensure exceptional dining experiences, effective inventory management, and responsible cost controls. Success requires balancing the Club's longstanding traditions with thoughtful innovation and operational efficiencies that enhance the member experience.

The Executive Director will oversee the Club's financial performance, working closely with the Board to develop and manage annual operating and capital budgets, financial forecasts, and long-term plans. Responsibilities include ensuring fiscal responsibility, providing timely and accurate financial reporting, managing resources effectively, and offering informed recommendations that support the Club's financial stability and long-term sustainability.

Equally important, the Executive Director will foster a positive, professional, and service-oriented workplace that attracts, develops, and retains talented employees. Through strong leadership, mentorship, accountability, and effective communication, the Executive Director will cultivate a collaborative team culture committed to excellence. The role also requires ensuring compliance with applicable employment regulations, including those governing unionized labor, while maintaining open and productive communication among the Board, members, management, and staff.

Direct Reports: Executive Chef, Controller, Administrative Assistant, Food and Beverage Director, Banquet Manager, Ladies Attendant.

The Candidate

The successful candidate should possess the following knowledge, skills and attributes to be successful:

- A minimum of 5-7 years of senior leadership experience in high-end hospitality, private club management, or event management environments of equivalent world class standards as The Casino.
- A professional career track record of achievement and employment stability.
- Extensive experience leading fine dining operations and event planning is critical.
- Strong overall food, beverage and wine knowledge is highly desired with a track record of shaping and developing excellent dining and beverage programming.

- Experience in building budgets and managing business from financial metrics, managing workflow for expense processing, and course-correcting as necessary to attain financial goals.
- A record of success in the selection, training, development, and motivation of a high performing, service-oriented staff.
- Experience working effectively with a Board and/or committees, understanding the distinction between governance and daily management of the operation.
- Foster strong member engagement and retention by cultivating meaningful relationships, understanding evolving member needs, and consistently delivering experiences that reinforce the value of Club membership.
- Knowledgeable about club-related technologies both in application and infrastructure required to bring efficiencies, organization, and convenience to the operation and to the membership.

Skills & Attributes

- A personable, visible, and approachable leader who genuinely enjoys engaging with members and understands the importance of developing longstanding relationships.
- Exceptional organizational skills, with demonstrated experience coordinating private events, social functions, and complex calendars.
- A strong hospitality background, preferably within a private city club, boutique hospitality establishment, or similarly relationship-driven environment.
- Demonstrated respect for established traditions, institutional knowledge, and the contributions of long-tenured employees.
- A collaborative leadership style that supports staff, fosters trust, and preserves a positive workplace culture.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the judgment and discretion appropriate for a highly private membership organization.
- Sound administrative and financial management capabilities, including experience with budgets, internal controls, and operational oversight.
- Comfort with club management software and technology, with the ability to help implement practical improvements while respecting traditional operating practices.
- Strong attention to detail, follow-through, and the ability to manage multiple events, member requests, and administrative responsibilities simultaneously.
- A service-oriented temperament, professional presence, adaptability, and a genuine appreciation for the unique culture of a traditional private club.
- Flexibility to work evenings and weekends as required by the Club's event and dining schedule.
- Familiarity with Chicago is highly beneficial.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

- A bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Hospitality Management, or equivalent is preferred, with an advanced degree considered highly desirable.
- Professional certifications (CCM, CCE) or comparable professional development credentials are highly desirable. Wine certifications and/or extensive wine knowledge and appreciation are also strongly valued.

Compensation:

The position offers an annual base salary of $200,000–$230,000, depending on qualifications and experience. The position is eligible for an annual performance bonus. The Club offers medical, dental, and vision insurance, a 401(k) plan with an employer contribution, and a parking space.

Learn more about the position and apply through our website:

Available Private Club Executive Positions