

# Straus Historical Society

Executive Director / CEO

This analysis benchmarks the total compensation of **Joan Adler, Executive Director / CEO** (\$42,000) against **every comparable organization** that fit the selection criteria — **49** in total — drawn systematically from IRS Form 990 filings, not a hand-picked subset.

Compensation sits at approximately the **61<sup>st</sup>** percentile of comparable organizations

within the typical range

**Benchmarked executive:** Joan Adler — reported title “Executive Director”, a **direct title match** to the Executive Director / CEO role.

## How comparable organizations were selected

**SECTOR** Organizations sharing the subject's NTEE classification (A80).

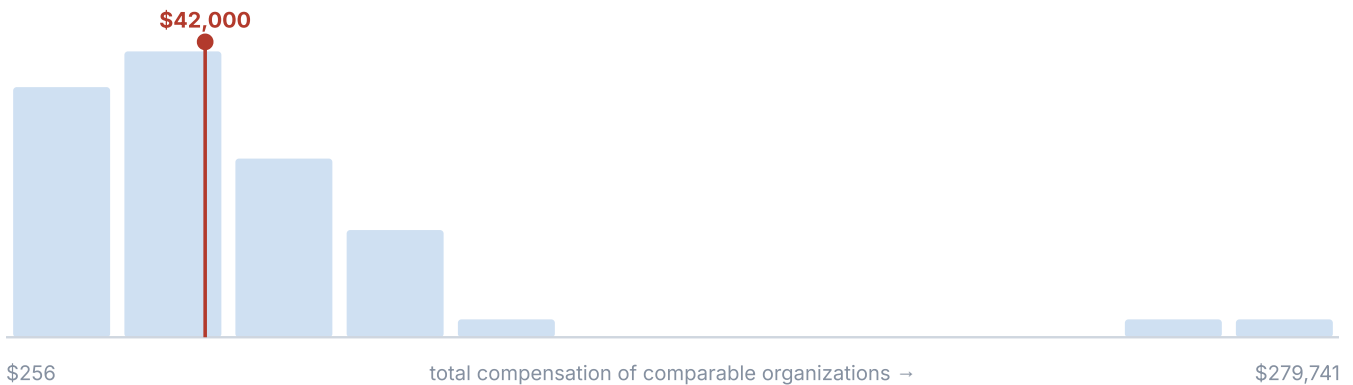
**BUDGET** Total revenue between \$77,533 and \$173,581 — 0.67x to 1.50x the subject's \$115,721 (the band tightens as size grows).

**GEOGRAPHY** Same NTEE sector (A80), nationwide + budget 0.67–1.5x revenue.

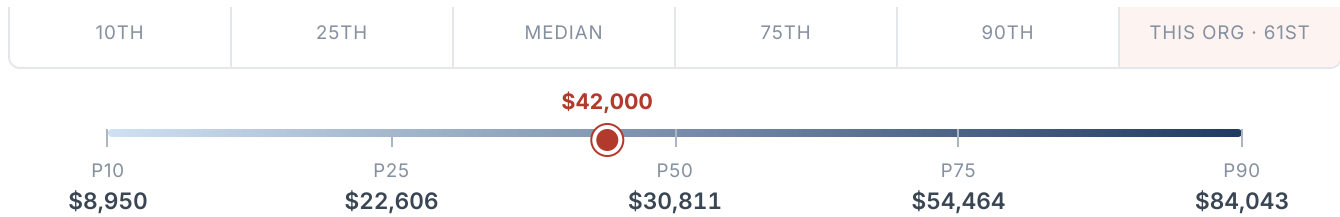
**49** organizations qualified on sector, size, and geography

→ **49** within the band form the benchmarked peer set.

## Distribution of comparable compensation



\$8,950	\$22,606	\$30,811	\$54,464	\$84,043	\$42,000
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## ● Comparable organizations

Each figure is Form 990 Part VII columns D + F (reportable pay plus other compensation and benefits; column F may include amounts from related organizations), normalized to NY cost of living (BEA RPP, 2023) and to its filing year (CPI-U); the reported amount is on each linked 990.

ORGANIZATION	STATE	REVENUE	MATCHED TITLE	COMP (REPORTED)	COMP (ADJUSTED)	FY
<a href="#">The George Joseph And Susie Ezzell Atta Memorial Library Inc</a>	AL	\$118,265	Director, President	\$2,555	<b>\$3,055</b>	2024
<a href="#">The Lafayette Trail Inc</a>	PA	\$112,945	President	\$70,000	<b>\$79,534</b>	2023
<a href="#">Johnson House Historic Site</a>	PA	\$112,477	Executive Director	\$21,000	<b>\$23,175</b>	2024
<a href="#">Highland Historical Society</a>	VA	\$111,650	Executive Di	\$19,240	<b>\$20,558</b>	2024
<a href="#">Shelton Historical Society Inc</a>	CT	\$111,059	Executive Director	\$24,445	<b>\$25,364</b>	2024
<a href="#">Listening Point Foundation</a>	MN	\$126,150	Executive Director	\$24,960	<b>\$28,100</b>	2023
<a href="#">San Antonio Conservation Society</a>	TX	\$127,075	Executive Director	\$13,380	<b>\$15,249</b>	2023
<a href="#">Goldfield Superstition Historical Society Inc</a>	AZ	\$102,180	Clerk	\$29,200	<b>\$31,077</b>	2024
<a href="#">Columbia County Historical &amp; Genealogical Society</a>	PA	\$130,316	Executive Director	\$5,000	<b>\$5,518</b>	2024
<a href="#">Capitol Historic Trust Inc</a>	DC	\$131,573	President	\$25,000	<b>\$24,995</b>	2023
<a href="#">Exchange Arts</a>	PA	\$99,483	Executive Director	\$51,674	<b>\$58,711</b>	2023
<a href="#">T Thomas Fortune Foundation</a>	NJ	\$132,664	Executive Di	\$34,588	<b>\$34,175</b>	2024
<a href="#">Historic St Mary's Mission Inc</a>	MT	\$97,317	Executive Director	\$24,249	<b>\$28,927</b>	2024
<a href="#">Craik-patton Inc</a>	WV	\$134,149	Executive Director	\$40,000	<b>\$47,929</b>	2024
<a href="#">Old Santa Fe Association Inc</a>	NM	\$96,670	Executive Di	\$69,783	<b>\$83,060</b>	2024
<a href="#">California History Center Foundation</a>	CA	\$135,627	Program Director (Fhda Instructor)	\$292,740	<b>\$279,741</b>	2024

ORGANIZATION	STATE	REVENUE	MATCHED TITLE	COMP (REPORTED)	COMP (ADJUSTED)	FY
<a href="#">Historic Marion Revitalization</a>	SC	\$91,900	Executive Dir.	\$27,394	<b>\$30,811</b>	2025
<a href="#">Natl Washington-rochambeau Rev Rt A</a>	MD	\$139,631	Executive Di	\$32,800	<b>\$33,935</b>	2024
<a href="#">Historical Society Of Perry County</a>	PA	\$91,041	Employee	\$930	<b>\$1,026</b>	2024
<a href="#">The Chicago Club Preservation Foundation</a>	IL	\$141,514	Management Representative	\$29,859	<b>\$32,486</b>	2024
<a href="#">The Ballard House Project Inc</a>	AL	\$142,515	Executive Director	\$18,000	<b>\$22,156</b>	2023
<a href="#">Crawford Family Historical Museum Inc</a>	TX	\$87,830	Secretary-treasurer	\$29,952	<b>\$34,136</b>	2023
<a href="#">Dublin Community Center</a>	NH	\$87,586	Center Director	\$24,999	<b>\$25,545</b>	2024
<a href="#">Whitesville Historical Society Inc</a>	KY	\$86,210	Executive Di	\$21,012	<b>\$25,721</b>	2023
<a href="#">Mainstreet Las Vegas Inc</a>	NM	\$85,591	Executive Director	\$25,000	<b>\$29,757</b>	2024

**Comp (reported)** is the figure on each organization's Form 990 (columns D + F); **Comp (adjusted)** normalizes it to NY cost of living and 2024 dollars. Click any organization to verify the figure on ProPublica.

## ■ Methodology

Comparable organizations were drawn from electronically filed IRS Form 990 returns and matched on sector (NTEE code), budget (a size-adaptive revenue band that tightens as the organization grows), and geography (same-state first, broadening only when too few peers qualify); every organization within the band forms the peer set. To compare fairly across regions and years, peer compensation is normalized to NY cost of living (BEA Regional Price Parities, 2023) and to the subject's filing year (CPI-U). The figure benchmarked is Form 990 Part VII, Section A, columns D + F — reportable pay plus other compensation, benefits, and deferred amounts (column F may include amounts from related organizations) — with the chief executive matched by role. Related-organization amounts (column E) and institutional trustees are excluded. Full methodology: [peerbasis.org/methodology](https://peerbasis.org/methodology).

## ■ Sample, role match & sensitivity

PEER COUNT	<b>49</b> organizations. Compensation range \$256–\$279,741; filing years 2023–2025.
SIZE BASIS	Matched on total revenue (\$115,721); for reference, expenses \$116,236 and assets \$530,083.
ROLE MATCH	Joan Adler, reported title " <i>Executive Director</i> ", benchmarked as Executive Director / CEO. The title maps directly to this role.

**RELATED-ORG PAY** 4 peers report related-organization compensation (column E), which the D + F benchmark does not fully capture; review where material.

**OUTLIERS** 3 peers fall outside 1.5× the interquartile range — consider whether any reflect one-time payments (severance, deferred-comp payouts).

Sensitivity — the subject's percentile under alternative compensation definitions:

BASIS	SUBJECT PERCENTILE
Total compensation (D + F), cost-of-living + inflation adjusted — the PeerBasis default	61 <sup>st</sup>
Total compensation (D + F), as reported (no adjustments)	63 <sup>rd</sup>
Reportable pay only (column D), adjusted	63 <sup>rd</sup>
All sources (D + E + F), adjusted	55 <sup>th</sup>

If the percentile moves materially across these definitions, the result is sensitive to methodology choices, and the board should weigh which basis best fits its facts.

### ● Rebuttable presumption of reasonableness • 26 CFR 53.4958-6

Compensation paid by a tax-exempt organization is presumed reasonable — shifting the burden to the IRS — when three requirements are met. This report supplies the comparability data for the second. The board should record the following in its minutes *concurrently* with its decision:

#### Draft board minutes – executive compensation

1. The compensation of the Executive Director / CEO (Joan Adler) was approved in advance by [the Board / Compensation Committee], composed of members with no conflict of interest with respect to the arrangement.
2. Prior to its determination, the authorized body obtained and relied upon appropriate comparability data, namely the PeerBasis Compensation Comparability Determination dated June 10, 2026, comparing compensation against 49 similarly situated organizations (Same NTEE sector (A80), nationwide + budget 0.67–1.5× revenue).
3. The authorized body determined that total compensation of \$42,000 is reasonable (approximately the 61<sup>st</sup> percentile of comparable organizations) and documented the basis for this determination concurrently, on [date], by a vote of [\_\_ for / \_\_ against].

Sources: IRS Form 990 e-file data (apps.irs.gov); IRS Business Master File (NTEE classification). Every figure traces to an original public filing — click any organization above to verify it on ProPublica. PeerBasis is a service of Prismind Analytics; its [methodology is published](#), was commissioned for independent adversarial review, and discloses its own limitations. This report is comparability data to support a board's good-faith determination under IRC 4958; it is not legal or tax advice. Generated by PeerBasis on June 10, 2026.