



Executive Team Biographies

Kathy Southern ***President & CEO***

For more than 25 years, Kathy Dwyer Southern has provided leadership to major museums, cultural and philanthropic organizations, associations, and government in the Washington, DC area. Previously the President & CEO of Port Discovery in Maryland, she led a successful \$35 million capital campaign to create and develop one of the three largest children's museums in the country. Ms. Southern was formerly the Executive Director of James Madison's Montpelier, as well as of the National Cultural Alliance. She has worked with the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, Federated Arts Council of Richmond, Va., and the Smithsonian Institution. Currently, Ms. Southern is the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the American Association of Museums and serves on the American Association of Museums' International Council of Museums. Her professional affiliations have included work with the Association of Children's Museums and she is also a former member of the Dean's Advisory Board at the University of Wisconsin's School of Business.

Willard Whitson ***Vice President of Public Programs & Exhibitions***

Willard Whitson leads the Museum's exhibit and program development and oversees the design and development of the Museum's new 150,000 square foot facility. Mr. Whitson comes to NCM with over 35 years of experience in the museum field and brings a breadth of knowledge and expertise to the project. Most recently, he served as the Vice President of Exhibits and Education at the Please Touch Museum and as the Director of Exhibitions at The Academy of Natural Sciences, both in Philadelphia. He has also served as an instructor at Moore College of Art and the Fashion Institute of Technology. Mr. Whitson holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Georgia and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Birmingham Southern College.

Stephen Richard ***Vice President of External Relations***

Stephen Richard joined the National Children's Museum as Vice President for External Relations following a 28-year career managing several nationally significant arts organizations. Most recently, he was the Executive Director of Washington's Arena Stage, where he served for 17 years. His consulting clients have ranged from the Williamstown Theater Festival to the Howard Heinz Endowments. He has served on panels and advised organizations like the Pew Trusts and the National Endowment for the Arts, among many others. He currently teaches management in the Masters program at George Mason University and in the undergraduate college at Georgetown University.

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