

Roberts Consulting

Strategic Thinking for Cultural Nonprofits

1715 Cambridge Street
Cambridge MA 02138

Services

Strategic and business planning, including guiding board and staff planning committees, writing plans, and mission review. Selected clients include:

Frist Center for the Visual Arts
Katonah Museum of Art
Historic New England
Indiana Historical Society
Strawbery Banke Museum

Negro Leagues Baseball Museum
Webb Deane Stevens Museum
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center
The Discovery Museums
Wilson Museum

Organizational assessment, including governance review, board evaluation and training, accreditation, and other assessments. Selected clients include:

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
Winterthur
New England Aquarium
CT Commission on Culture and Tourism
American Philosophical Society

The Emily Dickinson Museum
Connecticut Humanities Council
New York Multi-Arts Center Consortium
Westchester Arts Council
New Hampshire Humanities Council

Professional development for entry level and mid career staff and boards in museums and other cultural organizations. Selected clients include:

American Association of Museums
American Association for State and
Local History
Boston Children's Museum
Museum Institute at Sagamore

Bank Street College New Perspectives
Council of American Jewish Museums
Museum Association of New York
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Museum Trustee Association

Meeting and retreat facilitation with boards, staff, and community in support of visioning, planning and program development. Selected clients include:

Americans for the Arts
New York State Council on the Arts
Roosevelt Vanderbilt National
Historic Site
Boston Museum Project

Garrison Art Center
Pennsylvania Heritage Society
Rockport Chamber Music Festival
Scarsdale Historical Society
Boston Camerata

Program conceptualization, including interpretive planning and development of new programs. Selected clients include:

Institute of Contemporary Art
Museum of Science, Boston (with
Cambridge Seven Associates)
MIT Museum
Hale Homestead

Bellamy-Ferriday House and Gardens
The Bostonian Society
Southeast Coast Education Collaborative
Prudence Crandall House
Tudor Place House and Gardens

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Laura B. Roberts, Principal

Education

Master of Business Administration, with high honors; Boston University School of Management
Concentration: Public and Nonprofit Management, 1991
Recipient, John R. Russell Award for Public and Nonprofit Management Excellence, 2003

Master of Arts; Cooperstown Graduate Program, State University of New York
Concentration: History Museum Studies, 1977

Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude; Radcliffe College, Harvard University
Concentration: Social Anthropology, 1974

Professional Experience

Principal, *Roberts Consulting, Cambridge, MA*. Since 1996

Executive Director, *Boston Center for Adult Education, Boston, MA* (1994-1996)
BCAE is the city's largest and oldest free standing adult education center.

Executive Director, *New England Museum Association, Boston, MA* (1988-1994)
NEMA is a region of the American Association of Museums, serving 900 individual and 200 institutional members.

Director of Education, *National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA* (1984-1987)

Director of Education, *USS Constitution Museum, Boston, MA* (1983-1984)

Curator for Education, *Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, RI* (1977-1983)

Assistant Coordinator of Volunteers, *Museum of Science, Boston, MA* (1974-1976)

Teaching Experience

Visiting Lecturer, *Tufts University, Medford, MA*

Have taught *Museums Today: Mission and Function* in graduate Museum Certificate program and contribute to ongoing curriculum review and development (1993-2009).

Advisor and Faculty, *Bank Street College Museum Leadership Program, New York, NY*

Advise graduate students and teach mission, planning and boards of trustees (since 1999). Have twice served as acting program director.

Faculty, *Seminar in Historical Administration, Indianapolis, IN, formerly Williamsburg, VA*

Annually teach *Managing Change* to mid-career professionals (since 1997).

Instructor, Museum Studies, *Showa University, Boston, MA*

Taught introduction to museums to Japanese art history students (2001).

Adjunct Assistant Professor, *Boston University School of Management, Boston, MA*

Taught several required and elective nonprofit and arts management courses in the graduate Public and Nonprofit Management Program (1995-2006).

Adjunct Faculty, *Lesley University School of Management, Cambridge, MA*

Taught *Nonprofit Arts Organization Management* in graduate Arts Administration program (1991-1994); supervised graduate students in independent studies related to museum management.

Board and Volunteer Experience

Current and Recent

Institute for Learning Innovation
Secretary/treasurer of the Board of Directors

First Night, Boston
Vice chair of the Board of the organization that created the New Year's Eve community arts festival

Tufts University Art Gallery
Chair of the Advisory Board, Member of University Gifts of Art Committee

Central Square Theater, Cambridge
Member, Board of Directors

Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston
Member, Board of Trustees

The Museum Group
TMG is a consortium of independent museum professionals; past president and treasurer

New England Museum Association
Chair (2006-2008) of the Independent Museum Professionals Affinity Group

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities (now Mass Humanities)
Member of the Advisory Board. Formerly on board of directors (1991 to 1997), past president (1994 to 1996), chaired 30th anniversary campaign (2004)

WGBH, Boston
Member of the Community Advisory Board (2003-2006)

Other board experience

AAM Education Committee
Cooperstown Graduate Association
Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies
MIT Museum
New England Museum Association
Oral History Center (Cambridge MA)

Rhode Island Committee on the Humanities
Rhode Island Social Studies Association
Social Venture Partners, Boston
Volunteers in Action (Providence RI)
Wayland (MA) Historical Commission
Wayland (MA) Historical Society

Continuing Education

Institute for Nonprofit Consulting, CompassPoint and Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Managing Change, Radcliffe Seminars
Legal Aspects of Museum Administration, American Bar Association
Right Brain + Left Brain = Productivity, Polaroid Corporation
Managing Staff for Results, Public Management Institute
Reinterpreting America's Past, American Association for State and Local History
Seminar in Museum Evaluation, Smithsonian Institution
Seminar in Community History, Newberry Library

Publications

- “Winds of Opportunity,” *History News*, Spring 2010 (with Barbara Franco)
- “New Opportunities in National Service Programs,” *NemaNews*, Winter 2010
- Middletown Historical Society discussion cases, *StEPS Workbook*, AASLH, 2009
- “New Opportunities in National Service Programs,” *Guild Notes*, Spring 2009
- Review, “Creating Great Visitor Experiences,” *Visitor Studies*, Volume 10, Number 2.
- Commentary, “Case Study: Tough Decisions,” *Board Member*, February/March, 2005
- “Outcomes and Experience: New Priorities for Museums,” *Curator, The Museum Journal*, January 2001.
- Review, “Nonprofit Boards that Work,” *NemaNews*, Summer 2001.
- Review, Recent Books on Philanthropy, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, Winter 2001.
- “Assessment and Planning Using a Graphical Portfolio Approach,” *NemaNews*, Fall 2000.
- Standards and Guidelines for Museum Internships*, American Association of Museums Technical Information Service, 1993.
- 1992/93 Salary Survey and Benefits Survey*, New England Museum Association, 1993.
- “Nonprofit and Loss: The crisis of public confidence in museums,” *Museum News*, March/April 1993.
- “Museums & Volunteers - A Look into the Future,” *American Association for Museum Volunteers*, Spring 1992.
- 1990 Salary Survey*, New England Museum Association, 1990.
- Museums and Classrooms: A Teacher’s Guide to Using Rhode Island’s Museums*, Rhode Island Historical Society, 1986.
- “Planning a Successful Museum Field Trip,” *Massachusetts Elementary Educator*, September 1986.
- “Ben Franklin at the Museum of our National Heritage,” *The Journal of Museum Education*, Spring 1986.
- “Working Women: Images of Women at Work in Rhode Island, 1880 to 1925,” *Rhode Island History*, February 1979 (with others).
- “Should Volunteers be Fired?” *Voluntary Action Leadership*, Fall 1979.

Case Studies

- Case studies on cultural property and financial decision making, Museum Trustee Association
Boston Children’s Museum, Promising Practice Award Winner, Association of Children’s
Museums
- Case studies on organizational change, Seminar in Historical Administration
- Case study on internal communication, Marketing Initiative for Small and Mid-Sized Arts
Organizations, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- Lied Discovery Children’s Museum, Promising Practice Award Winner, Association of Children’s
Museums
- Cincinnati Museum Center, New England Museum Association Annual Conference
- Historical Society of Washington DC, New England Museum Association Annual Conference

Grant Review Experience

Massachusetts Cultural Council
Massachusetts Foundation for the
Humanities

National Endowment for the Humanities
New Hampshire Council on the Arts
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts