

Liz S. Alsina

Program Associate, Performing Arts, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

In her current role as a program associate in the Performing Arts team at The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Liz manages the Foundation's portfolio of nearly 100 national and international active music grants to opera companies, orchestras, musician-led ensembles, and university presenters.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Liz was director of institutional giving at Roundabout Theatre Company, Florida Grand Opera, and TheatreworksUSA, where she also served as director of development. Additional experiences include: education and community engagement with Washington National Opera and New York City Opera; general management with INTAR Theatre and the Yale Cabaret; and public relations and events management with Sony Classical Records and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

She received a Bachelor of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music where she studied classical voice, and a Masters in Fine Arts degree from Yale University where she studied theater management at the School of Drama; currently, she is pursuing a Certificate in Global Affairs from New York University.

During her studies at Yale, Liz was a National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts scholar. Liz is an active community volunteer, and has also served in New York City and Miami's municipal arts grant panels.



Janet Brown

President & CEO, Grantmakers in the Arts

Janet Brown is a nationally known consultant, speaker and teacher. Until recently, she was an adjunct faculty member at Goucher College, Baltimore, MD teaching Public Policy and the Arts. Prior to GIA, she was chair of performing and visual arts at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD and executive director of South Dakotans for the Arts and the SD Alliance for Arts Education.

She began her arts management career in theatre where her work included Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival, the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, and national and European tours. She began her theatre career as an actress at the Black Hills Playhouse and was co-owner of the Deadwood Production Company for ten years.

A registered lobbyist for 15 years, Janet received numerous awards for arts advocacy including the Selena Roberts Ottum Award from Americans for the Arts, Washington, DC, and the Robert Gard Award from the University of Massachusetts Arts Extension Service (AES), Amherst. She's served on many local and national boards of directors including Americans for the Arts and the American Folklife Center and has been a panelist and site evaluator for the National Endowment for the Arts and several state arts agencies. She has an undergraduate degree in Theatre and a Masters of Public Administration.



Heather C. Noonan
Vice President for Advocacy, League of American Orchestras

Heather Noonan is the Vice President for Advocacy for the League of American Orchestras, the national service organization for approximately 800 symphony orchestras nationwide. From the League's Washington, D.C. office, Ms. Noonan represents orchestras before Congress, the White House, and federal agencies. Her legislative portfolio includes federal policies related to the National Endowment for the Arts, education, immigration, cultural exchange, and nonprofit tax issues.

Heather serves on the national advisory committee of the Arts Education Partnership and co-convenes the national Arts Education Policy Working Group, a coalition of more than a dozen national arts and education organizations dedicated to advancing federal funding and policy in support of more equitable access to arts learning. She has served on the U.S. Department of Education's steering committees for the America Goes Back to School project and Partnership for Family Involvement in Education, and on the board of directors of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras and the OMG Center for Collaborative Learning.

She also convenes the Cultural Advocacy Group, an ad-hoc collation of national arts and humanities organization pursuing federal policy in support of the arts and culture. Ms. Noonan is a member of Independent Sector's (IS) Public Policy Committee, which provides guidance to the IS board and staff on the public policy issues facing nonprofit and philanthropic organizations.

Heather established and edits the League web site *Artists from Abroad: The Complete Guide to Immigration and Tax Requirements for Foreign Guest Artists*, frequently consults orchestras regarding immigration and withholding procedures, and convenes the Performing Arts Visa Working Group. Prior to joining the League in 1996, she was a legislative associate for the American Arts Alliance. Heather earned a bachelor's degree in political science and studied art history at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington.