

Barbara Shepherd

Consultant, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Barbara Shepherd is a consultant for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, having served previously in the Education Division at the Center for 24 years, most recently as Director of School and Community Programs. She created the Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child initiative, a collective impact program, and supervised the National Partnerships, Changing Education Through the Arts, and D.C. Community Partnerships programs.

Ms. Shepherd facilitated the National Conversation on Artist Professional Development, a working group of organizations including Urban Gateways, Lincoln Center, and LA Music Center, which led to the publication of *Creating Capacity: A Framework for Providing Professional Development Opportunities for Teaching Artists*, for which she is a contributing author. She served as a Task Force Member and contributing author of the Arts Education Partnership publication, *Young Children and the Arts: Making Creative Connections*. She also was editor of *The Arts Beyond the School Day: Extending the Power*. From 2002-2006 she was an associate editor of the *Teaching Artist Journal*. Between 2008 and 2015, she has served on the National Artist Advisory Committee for the Hermitage Artist Retreat.

Prior to her work at the Kennedy Center, Ms. Shepherd served as the Managing Director of the Nashville Institute for the Arts. Also in Nashville, she directed the Wolf Trap Early Learning through the Arts program for children enrolled in the city's Head Start program, and wrote curriculum for early childhood educators. Ms. Shepherd earned a B.A. in theatre from Mary Washington College in Virginia, and an M.F.A. in acting from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.