

Biography - My Story

My engagement with the arts began at a very young age. My first school memories are of doing artwork in nursery school. I took piano lessons from age 4 and won a music composition award in 8th grade. I studied ballet, modern dance and children's theater. I played the piano for elementary school assemblies and accompanied the Junior High School boys' glee club while singing in the girls' glee club. I was the layout editor for my high school yearbook and created cover art for the student writing magazine.

I studied visual arts with major Philadelphia area artists and figure drawing at Moore College of Art on Saturdays. Figure drawing quickly became my passion as an artist – to this day. My first jobs from age 13-17 were teaching art, music, and theatre for children at the YWCA and my township summer camp. I focused on the visual arts in college, earning my B.S. in art education and painting from the University of Delaware.

I taught art at two elementary schools in Wilmington, Delaware prior to studying the business of managing arts organizations at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where I earned my master's degree in arts administration from the Graduate School of Business.

My study as an artist continued with Master's level courses at the Tyler School of Art and through a variety of travel workshops both in the US and abroad. Locally, I continue my studies through workshops at the Smithsonian (DC), the Torpedo Factory Art Center (VA), and McLean Center for the Arts (VA).

Biography - Resume

Kathi R. Levin is a long-term national leader in the arts, arts education, and arts management. Her distinguished career spans over forty years of leadership in grant making, policy and advocacy, partnership development and coalition building, strategic planning, governance, program, and marketing. She has worked at the national, state, and local levels in a variety of leadership roles and as a consultant for numerous nonprofit arts organizations.

Highlights include:

- For the past 16 years, she managed the grant-making National Art Education Foundation (NAEF), and as Project Manager for the National Art Education Association, the national organization for the nation's PreK-16 Visual Arts Educators. monitoring of federal arts and education policy and staffing a variety of board-led initiatives and committees.
- She served as the Senior Program Director in the Education Department of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for over a decade including as Director of the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, supporting state leaders to keep the arts in our nation's schools, as well as director of the Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration National Site Program. She developed over 21 national partnerships with a variety of associations and serving as the Kennedy Center's liaison to Crayola. Her responsibilities included writing and delivering public speeches with and for the Vice President of Education.
- Other executive positions include serving as Director of Funding and Arts Management Services for the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of

State; Director of Governance for AASA, the School Superintendents Association; Director of Marketing for the Grand Opera House (DE) and the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities (CO).

- She has served on multiple boards, grant review panels, and committees including The Innovation Collaboration (National Coalition for STEAM Learning), Fairfax County Arts Council, Americans for the Arts, Arts Education Partnership; Arts Management Program of American University, U.S. Department of Education, Ohio Arts Council, and Carolyn Dorfman Dance.
- Her published works include the Kennedy Center's *A Community Audit for Arts Education*, which became the foundation of its national *Any Given Child* initiative, and a chapter entitled, *Systemic Change and Sustainability*, published within the book, *Arts Integration in Education*, edited by Gail Humphries Mardirosian and Yvonne Pelletier Lewis. Published by Intellect, 2018.

Her formal education includes:

- B.S. in art education and painting, University of Delaware
- Graduate study in painting, Tyler School of Art, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania
- Select business studies at Temple University and Ursinus College, Pennsylvania
- Masters of Business Administration with an emphasis in arts administration, Graduate School of Business, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Additional artistic study:

Watercolor painting with David Daniels in Maryland and Virginia, 1994-1997

Figure Studies in both Drawing and Painting:

- Smithsonian Resident Associates Program coursework with live models, 1994-ongoing. Trinkia Margua Simon, Rae Leith, Anita Hinders, Josh Highter
- August 1998, Figure painting workshop with Don Andrews, Portland, Maine

Weeklong workshops in Landscape Painting, En Plein Air:

- July 1996, Study in Cap d'Antibes, Provence, and Paris, France
- July 1997 Study in Carmel, California with Don Andrews and Arne Westerman
- 1998 and 1999 with Jan Hart, Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico

Coursework in Pastel Painting:

- Spring and Fall 2019, Spring 2024 Multi-session Pastel workshops with Sandra Gobar, Smithsonian Resident Associates, including both still life and En Plein Air landscape in watercolor