

Nancy Plaskett

Nancy Plaskett is currently an evaluator at Inspire to Change, an organization that specializes in principles-driven, creative, and arts-based evaluation that is rooted in equity and social justice; her main project currently is iPAGE: addressing equity and inclusion in informal STEM institutions in partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota's IDEAL Center.

Prior to COVID and the unfortunate closure of the museum, she provided executive leadership to Chicago Children's Museum as Vice President of Community and Education Partnerships. In this role she directed its community engagement strategies, educational programs, and the building of citywide and national partnerships—with a particular emphasis on serving high priority populations. She is passionate about arts and culture nonprofits and a longtime advocate of community-engaged, inclusive practice.

From 2007-2015, Nancy spent eight years on the leadership team at Chicago Children's Museum, where as Vice President of Partnerships & Audience Development she helped make the institution more welcoming to all kinds of visitors and developed several multicultural initiatives. She co-led a National Science Foundation-funded collaboration focused on engaging the female Latinx community in STEM learning, and has spoken on inclusion, accessibility, anti-bias education, nature-based play, and other topics at the American Alliance of Museums, Association of Children's Museums, American Evaluation Association, and YMCA, among other conferences.

While taking a break from the museum, she was Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Slover Linett Audience Research, a social research firm for the cultural sector, where she led a team of researchers and oversaw the firm's operations. Nancy also personally directed complex, multi-method research and evaluation projects across a range of practice-areas, including high-profile studies for the Metropolitan Opera, Kennedy Center, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Museum of Science Boston, Naples Botanic Garden, and the Irvine Foundation's multidisciplinary cohort of 15 arts grantees.

Nancy has also held positions at Chicago Cares, Working in the Schools, and the evaluation firm PIE Org. She began her career as an urban educator in the Chicago Public Schools and in Arlington, Virginia. Nancy earned her bachelor's degree in education at The George Washington University and pursued further training in the Measurement, Evaluation, Statistics, and Assessment program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. An avid reader, book-clubber, arts-goer, and foodie, Nancy also volunteers with several nonprofits focused on literacy, community development, and serves on the PIE Org Board of Directors.