

Nancy Plaskett

Nancy Plaskett is currently working as a consultant in the areas of planning, implementation, and evaluation; nonprofit management; program development; project management. 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 for the cultural sector where she led a team of researchers and oversaw the firm's operations. Nancy also 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, Alliance for California Traditional Arts, Museum of Science Boston, Naples Botanic Garden, and the Irvine Foundation and its multidisciplinary cohort of 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.