Stanford



Deborah Cullinan

Vice President, Office of the Vice President for the Arts

Bio

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Deborah Cullinan is one of the nation's leading thinkers on the pivotal role artists and arts organizations can play in shaping our social and political landscape, and has spent years mobilizing communities through arts and culture. She joined Stanford University in early 2022 as the first full-time vice president for the arts. Previously, she was CEO of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA), where she launched several bold new programs, engagement strategies, and civic coalitions. Prior to joining YBCA in 2013, she was the executive director of San Francisco's Intersection for the Arts. She is a co-founder of CultureBank, board member of the Community Arts Stabilization Trust, and recently served as co-chair of the San Francisco Arts Alliance, and vice chair of the Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy. She was the inaugural National Field Leader in Residence at Arizona State University's National Accelerator for Cultural Innovation and a former innovator-in-residence at the Kauffman Foundation. She served on Mayor London Breed's San Francisco Economic Recovery Task Force and also on Governor Gavin Newsom's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery. Her passion for using art and creativity to shift culture and advance equity and justice has made her a sought-after speaker at events and conferences around the world.