

## Renée Brummell Franklin – Bio

As Chief Diversity Officer at the Saint Louis Art Museum, Renée Brummell Franklin champions policies and programs to ensure that the Museum is a welcoming and inclusive institution. She has led the Museum's efforts to initiate and cultivate sustainable relationships with diverse audiences to encourage participation in the arts for nearly 20 years. Renée believes that the arts have the power to transcend differences and build bridges for mutual understanding while challenging institutional inequities. Renée gains inspiration from creating entry points within cultural, educational, and social organizations for diverse communities to embrace the arts and think critically and creatively.

Renée has led the Museum's efforts to initiate and develop sustainable relationships and initiatives to encourage museum visitation and program participation both within the Museum and beyond its walls. She redesigned the *Romare Bearden Graduate Museum Fellowship*, which now serves as a national Museum model for increasing leadership and staffing in cultural institutions. Renée's other successful Art Museum initiatives include the *Friends of African American Art Collectors Circle*; *Youth smART Teen Assistant* program; *Art with Us*, a community residency art program as well as several museum-wide cultural celebrations. Renée is also the author of *Artful Message*, a regular art education column for the *St. Louis American* newspaper.

Renée volunteers on several boards and committees, including the St. Louis Visionary Awards, Gateway Korea Foundation, Sister Cities International, St. Louis Mosaic Project, World Trade Center St. Louis, and the National Alliance of African American Art Support Groups. She has received numerous awards, including the Grand Center Visionary Award for Outstanding Arts Professional. Renee holds a Master's degree in education and an MBA, both from Webster University.

Before joining the Saint Louis Art Museum, Renée served as Director of Education and Public Programs for Worldways Children's Museum of St. Louis and worked as a marketing representative for several Fortune 100 companies.