



Blythe T. Merrill

Blythe Merrill is currently Senior Vice President of Programs for The John R. Oishei Foundation, Western New York's largest private charitable foundation. As Senior Vice President of Programs, Ms. Merrill serves as the Foundation's senior programmatic leader and oversees the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of key Foundation initiatives. She collaborates with local and national leaders to identify, cultivate and drive the introduction of proven models to the WNY area. She also manages a portfolio of grants and presents sound project and funding recommendations to the Board.

Merrill oversees the Foundation's education-related grants and programs including a \$5 million scholarship program. She was a major driver in the efforts to bring "Say Yes to Education" to Buffalo and serves on the local Operating Committee as well as a co-chair for the Say Yes Community-Based Organizations Task Force. Merrill was also largely responsible for the recently opened Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology.

She played a key role in the Foundation's support of the 2011 National Trust for Historic Preservation conference in Buffalo and continues to be engaged in neighborhood revitalization efforts across the city.

Ms. Merrill has been with the Oishei Foundation for over ten years. She has a diverse background that includes several years in preservation planning and advising with Flynn Battaglia Architects, the Landmark Society of Western New York, the Steel Industry Heritage Task Force in Pittsburgh, and the Municipal Art Society in New York City. For over a decade, she served as a grant reviewer/program officer/funding strategist for numerous well-known organizations such as the Preservation League of New York State, NYSCA, the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and the Howard Heinz Endowment and Mon Valley Initiative in Pittsburgh.

She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Buffalo's Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC Buffalo), Preservation Buffalo Niagara (PBN) and the WNY Grantmakers Association.

A resident of the city of Buffalo, Merrill is a graduate of Skidmore College and was a Loeb Fellow through the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and Environmental Studies.