

# COOPER HEWITT

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## BIOS

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### CAROLINE BAUMANN DIRECTOR

Caroline Baumann joined Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in 2001 and has held many leadership positions at the museum. Now, as the fifth Director of Cooper Hewitt since its opening in 1976, she is spearheading the grand opening of the renovated and expanded museum in December 2014 – a transformation that will create immersive museum spaces and participatory visitor experiences never before seen in the museum realm. Baumann played an active role in overseeing the master plan as well as the selection of architects for the renovation project, and has been instrumental in making the entire campus accessible and inviting. She is leading the campaign to realize the most ambitious capital project in the museum's history, which has raised more than \$87 million to date toward the \$91 million goal. Baumann and her team have forged multiple national and international partnerships in recent years, as they advance the museum's mission to inspire, educate and empower people through design.

To increase accessibility during the renovation period, Baumann managed the realization of the Cooper Hewitt Design Center in Harlem, a 1,500-square-foot education space that has served 25,000 people since its opening in May 2012. She also spearheaded national and international exhibitions and other global partnerships.

Before starting at Cooper Hewitt, Baumann worked at The Museum of Modern Art where she held senior development roles and raised funds for the museum's Yoshio Taniguchi building project, amongst others. Prior to her time at MoMA, she served as Director of Development at the Calhoun School in Manhattan.

Baumann is a member of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee for the U.S. Postal Service and the NYC Landmarks50 Advisory Committee and a director of the Royal College of Art U.S. Alumni Group Advisory Board. She is a founding member of the Collective, which stages the Collective Design Fair every May in New York. Baumann is also a member of the NYCxDesign steering committee for New York's citywide event showcasing design.

She received a master's degree in medieval art from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, and a bachelor's degree in the history of art and French literature from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.



## **BARBARA A. MANDEL** **CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Barbara A. Mandel joined Cooper Hewitt's board in 1997 and has been a member of the museum's executive committee since 1998. She has played an active role at Cooper Hewitt, supporting numerous exhibitions, educational programming, digital initiatives and the renovation. She also served on the executive search committee, which resulted in the appointment of Caroline Baumann as the museum's fifth director in June 2013.

In North America, Mandel's major activities include serving as the president of the Cleveland Section of the National Council of Jewish Women; chair of Leadership Development, Project Renewal, and co-chair of the Campaign for the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland; national vice president, National Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal; national president of the American Friends of Hebrew University; trustee and Executive Committee member and co-chair of Brandeis University's capital campaign; board member of the West Palm Beach Library Foundation; and trustee and vice chair of the Mandel Foundation. Overseas, her philanthropic activities include serving as deputy chair of the Executive Committee and Board of Governors, honorary chairman of the International Board of Governors and chair of the International Campaign at Hebrew University.

In addition to holding an honorary degree from Hebrew University, Mandel was recently made Honorary Chairman of the International Board of Governors. Additional awards include the Hannah G. Soloman Award from the National Council of Jewish Women; election to the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame; and Life Trustee of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland. She attended Radcliffe College of Harvard University and Flora Stone Mather College of Case Western Reserve University from which she received a bachelor's degree.

## **BETH COMSTOCK** **PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Beth Comstock was appointed President in 2011, after joining Cooper Hewitt's board in May 2006. Under her leadership the Board has grown to 35 trustees. Beth has been instrumental in assembling technology partners to aid the museum in creating Cooper Hewitt's groundbreaking interactive visitor experience. In addition to being Board President and Co-Chair of the Marketing and Media Committee, which she co-founded, she also serves on the Executive, Finance, and Trustees Committees, and has also been active in the National Design Awards Gala serving as a Co-Chair for the past six years.

As Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer at GE, she leads the company's growth efforts through marketing, sales, licensing and communications and oversees GE Ventures. Her current priorities include partnering with and investing in start-ups, developing new markets in analytics, energy and affordable health through GE's industrial internet, and ecomagination and healthymagination initiatives.

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Previously she served as President of Integrated Media at NBC Universal where she oversaw ad sales, marketing and research, and led the company's digital media efforts, including early development of hulu.com, Peacock Equity, and acquisition of ivillage.com.

Beth also is a member Nike's Board of Directors and she serves on the board of Quirky, an online hub that makes invention accessible and is a start-up partner with GE on smart consumer products. She graduated from the College of William and Mary with a degree in biology.

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