



Choose Columbia
Columbia Economic Development Corporation

Ruth Adams

Columbia Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors

Ruth Adams was elected to the Columbia Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors on November 28, 2017.

In her 17 years at Art Omi, Executive Director Ruth Adams has grown the organization, creating a major upstate arts destination. Starting in 2001 with a \$750,000 annual budget with a handful of part time employees, Adams now manages a \$2 million budget and 50 employees at the height of the summer season, half of those year round. Since 2001, Art Omi has added a 4,000 SF Visitors Center and Gallery, a summer Education Pavilion in the sculpture park, an 8-bedroom cottage for the residencies, and a pool that serves the education and residency programs.

Programs added since 2005 include a collaborative dance residency, an architecture residency, arts event series, a year-round education program that includes a six-week summer day camp, winter and spring break camps, and Saturday classes in the Sculpture Park and Gallery, serving local and regional families.

Art Omi has seen visitorship triple in the last five years: nearly 28,000 people came to the Fields Sculpture Park and arts events in 2016 - a 53% increase over 2015.

Together with a board of trustees and program boards totaling 90 people from the arts and business communities, Adams is dedicated to Art Omi's vitality and sustainability, with a current focus on reputation building, destination creation, improved visitor services, internationalism, inclusivity, diversity, and programming excellence.

Affiliations Include:

Public Arts Consortium, launched by Madison Square Park Conservancy

Alliance of Artists Communities

Art and Disability Institute Advisory Committee, NYC

Non-Profit Steering Committee, Hudson NY

Hudson Area Arts Coalition

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

Adams brought her 20 years of experience in art making, art teaching, exhibitions management, and arts residency support. During her 15 years as a resident of NYC, she received an MFA at Queens College, worked for Jack Shainman Gallery and taught in the CUNY schools and for the Joan Mitchell Foundation. Before coming to NY, Adams worked in exhibitions at the University of Cincinnati Tangeman Center Gallery, Carl Solway Gallery, Contemporary Arts Center of Cincinnati, and as Residency Program Director at Ucross Foundation.