

GAIL LORD, C.M., LL.D.

Co-Founder



Gail Dexter Lord—experienced, innovative, effective, creative—is one of the world’s foremost museum planners. She is also an art critic, commentator, public speaker, and co-author of six museum planning manuals and several books, including “Cities, Museums and Soft Power”. Gail co-founded Lord Cultural Resources with her husband Barry Lord in 1981, to deliver specialized planning services to museums, the arts, cultural districts, and the creative economy with the goal of making the world a better place through culture. Based in Toronto and New York, Lord has offices in Mumbai, Los Angeles and Madrid. It has completed over 2,700 projects in 57 countries and 450 cities.

Gail has been instrumental in developing museum planning having co-authored with Barry Lord five museum planning manuals that have been published in English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Georgian. Gail and Barry’s book *Artists, Patrons, and the Public: Why Culture Changes* (AltaMira Press, California, 2010) focuses on the dynamism of culture in the world today. Gail has co-authored with Ngaire Blankenberg the book *Cities, Museums and Soft Power* (AAM Press 2015) which explores how museums can activate their soft power in the 21st Century.

As a visionary founder and expert on museum planning, Gail will offer crucial strategic advisement to guarantee the success of this endeavor. Her in-depth knowledge of museum audiences and sensitivity to the cultural resources that all communities have, as well as their need to nurture and develop those resources for the public benefit, make Gail particularly effective in planning for innovative approaches to cultural organizations such as the National African American Museum of History and Culture, the new branch of the Smithsonian Institution on the National Mall in Washington, Canada’s new national museum, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the Master Plan for Harvard University Museums, the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco, the Lowry in Salford, launched in 2000 as one of the UK’s Landmark Millennium Projects, and the Bahrain Monument.

Gail is a frequent presenter at professional conferences, including the American Alliance of Museums, the British Museums Association, The International Council of Museums and the Canadian Museums Association.

Gail has been honoured as a Member of the Order of Canada, Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres de France, and Doctor of Letters from McMaster University.