

SARA DIAMOND

Thought Leader, Digital, Data, Strategic Planning, Higher Education, Public Art



Dr. Sara Diamond is a global strategist with decades of expertise in digital media, design strategy, practice, and policy development. Drawing from a successful art and curatorial career, she has led institutional transformation within arts, digital media/ICT, and post-secondary institutions for many years, applying the tools of strategic foresight, design thinking and user-centered design. She has consulted with governments, industry, boards and institutions on cultural strategy, digital media, the role of design in society, the public realm and public art, AI, inclusion and equity and continues this practice with Lord. She brings a deep knowledge of the relationships of human practices, culture, and technologies. Dr. Diamond is President Emerita at OCAD University after a 3 term, 15-year presidency. Diamond has served as the Chair of the Nuit Blanche External Advisory Committee since its inception in 2007 and most recently served as co-chair of Toronto's ArtWorxTO, the Year of Public Art after contributing to the reframing of Toronto's 10 year public art strategy. She is the Chair of the Toronto Arts Foundation Board and of the Baycrest Academy for Research and Education and is a member of the Baycrest Senior Care governing board.

Diamond led OCAD University to retain its traditional strengths in art and design, while transforming the university to build graduate studies and research and enroll international students. Diamond created the Digital Futures Initiative and the Digital Media Research and Innovation Institute; supported OCAD U's unique research in Inclusive Design and Design for Health. She collaborated with Indigenous colleagues to develop the Indigenous Visual Culture Program, with correlative prioritization of Indigenous knowledge and culture. She led significant equity initiatives that changed the demographics of the Board of Governors, institutional leaders, management, faculty, and staff and supported a Black faculty cluster hire. She built the gallery system at OCAD University. As Artistic Director/Executive Producer Media & Visual Art and Director of Research at The Banff Centre she founded and led the international Banff New Media Institute from 1995 - 2005, with its resulting international research, industry development and start-up success. She initiated and supported the Aboriginal Arts Program and the International Curatorial Institute.

Diamond holds a doctoral degree in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, a Masters in Digital Media and Performance, an Honours Bachelor Degree in History and an Honours Bachelor Degree in Communication Studies. Diamond is an active researcher with current funding from Canada's Tricouncil agencies, the Ontario Research Excellence Fund and Mitacs. Examples of current projects are iCity 2.0 where as co Principal Investigator, she is leading research on the application of digital technologies in support of Complete Community Design; **Building a Complete Community for the Downsview South Subdistrict Applying Advanced Design Methods and Tools**; **Abundant Intelligences**, inventing AI applications to serve the needs of Indigenous communities; and several projects that apply data analytics to the qualitative assessment of cultural experience. She is an Expert Panelist with the Canadian Centre for the Purpose of the Corporation drawing on years of board experience.

In recognition of her efforts Diamond has received the Order of Canada, C.M. and the Order of Ontario, and the 2013 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for significant contributions to Canada.; the

2020 Exceptional Women of Excellence, Women's Economic Forum; two Media Pioneer awards, from DigiFest, Toronto, April 2019, and the GRAND National Centre of Excellence, 2013; the 2018 Inspiring 50: Advancement of diversity in the STEM fields, Government of Netherlands, and Senate of Canada; the Canada 150 Women: Leaders, Champions and Luminaries; Toronto Life's 50 Most Influential. Honorary degrees include a Doctor of Science, honoris causa, Simon Fraser University, 2020, and an Honorary Bachelors Degree from Humber College, 2023. She has been inducted into the Royal Canadian Academy of Art, the International Women's Forum, and the IEEE. Diamond has won awards for digital innovation, video art and television production and her art works are in collections such as the MoMA and National Gallery of Canada.