

Irene Siragusa Phelps

Irene Siragusa Phelps became the first Executive Director of The Siragusa Foundation in 1997 and in 2002 was elected President. She graduated from Tulane University in 1975 with a B.A. in Philosophy and spent eighteen years in Los Angeles working in the entertainment and restaurant industries. For the past twelve years, she has been a family representative of the Foundation working to preserve her grandfather's legacy, and an involved member of Chicago's philanthropic community. She has overseen the Foundation's largest series of gifts ever made, and she is currently directing the Foundation's plans to become more engaged in today's strategic philanthropy environment.

She is actively interested in seeing that the Foundation becomes a point of contact for her family and is seeking ways in which the legacy of her grandfather, Ross D. Siragusa, can be carried on through the service and involvement of his 3rd and 4th generation family members. Irene has joined several other organizations in a leadership capacity. She serves on the Executive Committee and chairs the Nominating Committee of the Adler Planetarium. She is also Board Secretary to the recently formed 3ARTS Foundation, a member of the Board of Overseers at Rush University Medical Center, and a new member of the Trust for Public Land's Chicago Advisory Board. In addition, Irene is on committees at the Association of Small Foundations, Children's Memorial Siragusa Transplantation Center and the Lincoln Park Zoo's Farm in the Zoo. She also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Donors Forum and Lake Forest Country Day School.