

Sarah Wagner Biography

Across 46 years as a fundraising professional in the nonprofit sector, Sarah Wagner has built a career helping organizations deliver on their missions, pursue ambitious goals, and serve their communities more fully. As a development professional, advisor, and volunteer leader, she has supported cultural, environmental, educational, and human services organizations in strengthening philanthropic capacity and deepening their impact.

Sarah's career reflects a deep commitment to Chicago's cultural life. Through senior development roles at institutions such as Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago City Ballet, the Museum of Science and Industry, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, she helped advance the arts, culture, and educational experiences that enrich the city. At Campbell & Company, as Senior Counsel, she continues to bring that deep arts and culture experience to her work with clients, while also supporting organizations across the environment, education, and human services sectors. Her counsel has helped advance capital, endowment, and capacity-building campaigns, along with broader advancement efforts that position organizations for long-term strength.

Sarah's path has been shaped by leadership and service from the beginning. A graduate of Amherst College's first class of women, she has continued to open doors for others through decades of civic engagement, volunteer leadership, and mentorship. She is an early co-convenor of Women in Development Professions Chicago and a former board member of AFP Chicago. She has also served in leadership roles with YWCA Evanston/NorthShore and the Evanston Township High School Foundation and has held leadership positions at Amherst College and her church, along with volunteer roles with the Evanston Community Foundation, the Music Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Horticultural Society Woman's Board, Northwestern University Women's Board, and other nonprofit organizations.

Throughout her career, Sarah has modeled the best of the nonprofit sector: mentorship, collaboration, service, and a belief in the power of philanthropy to strengthen communities. As an advisor, colleague, board member, and volunteer, she has helped organizations grow stronger and inspired generations of nonprofit leaders to do the same.