

SUSAN J. RAGUSA

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Professional Profile

Independent consultant to nonprofit organizations, with broad experience in working with startup and established nonprofits on organizational leadership and other needs. High-energy, collaborative professional with active listening skills for pinpointing issues; strong problem-solving skills for conceptualizing solutions; and a well-honed capacity to guide stakeholders in implementing new ideas and strategies. Natural networker with a wide circle of professional contacts in multiple fields; dedicated to gathering and sharing information and anticipating trends that impact nonprofits. Fresh thinker and advocate for change, including promoting greater diversity, relationship building and digital strategizing to strengthen nonprofits.

Professional Skills

- Board Development, Orientation and Assessment
- Executive Coaching (Individual)
- Leadership Training (Board & Staff)
- Individual Donor Development
- Peer-to-Peer Fundraising Planning/Implementation
- Special Events Measurement/Management
- Workshop Development/Retreat Planning
- Large & Small Group Facilitation
- Presentations (Speaker & Panelist)

Professional Consulting

Susan J. Ragusa, LLC
Founder & Principal

2012 to Present

Independent consultant and strategist working with nonprofit organizations in the Hudson River Valley and metro New York. Areas of expertise include board development, orientation and education; executive leadership development; strategic fundraising and development; startup support in strategic planning and board creation, orientation and education.

Representative organizations include: TMI Project, Kingston, NY (startup support); O+ Festival, Kingston, NY (board development), NADD: An association for persons with developmental disabilities and mental health needs, Kingston (strategic planning); Ashokan Center, Olivebridge, NY (executive coaching); Rondout Valley Growers Association, Stone Ridge, NY (strategic fundraising planning/implementation); Safe Haven Animal Shelter & Wildlife Center, Hopewell Junction, NY (development/presentation series of fundraising workshops).

Hudson Valley Sustainable Leadership Organization (HV SLO)
Co-Founder

2016 to Present

Co-created an executive director leadership program targeting diverse needs of Hudson Valley nonprofits. Facilitate monthly ad-hoc professional discussion/problem-solving group, Nonprofits TALK; develop individual and small-group executive coaching and training sessions.

Cause & Event, LLC, New York City & Rhinebeck, NY
Founder & Principal

2008 to 2012

Event planning, specializing in creating and managing special events for nonprofit organizations to build organizational profiles and reach; develop and implement strategic fundraising plans; expand donor base and enhance donor development through strategic before-, during- and after-event planning and activities. Successful track record of revitalizing lagging events and innovating to institute new ones.

Representative organizations include: Heart Gallery NYC, Paws for Patients (New York Presbyterian Hospital, Manhattan), Geneva Worldwide, Dutchess (County) Democratic Women's Caucus, Hudson Valley B2B Bash.

Nonprofit Staff

Executive Director, 100 Year Association of New York

2006 to 2009

Leadership role for Manhattan-based organization that highlights achievements of public and private city institutions in existence for a century or more. Primary responsibilities involved membership development and stewardship, event planning and implementation for member organizations.

Early Career

Special Education Teacher, New York City Schools

Professional Associations

Association of Nonprofit Professionals, Affiliated Consultant

Board Member, Astor Services for Children and Families, Bronx and Hudson Valley (2010 to Present)

Education/Credentials

Certificate of Nonprofit Board Education, BoardSource

Exponential Fundraising with Jennifer McCrea, Hauser Institute for Civil Society, Harvard University

Event Planning & Management, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York City

MA, Special Education, New York University

BA, Queens College