

Carol Laughlin, Executive Director

Carol comes to the Garden from a long career in both nonprofit management in the Bay Area, and the world of retail, where she founded and ran her own event design and planning, and floral and home design businesses in St. Petersburg, Florida for 19 years. In between California and Florida, Carol served in the Peace Corp in Azerbaijan for two years as an economic development specialist.

Most recently, Carol was the Director of Volunteers, the Holiday Program, and Children's Programming at Samaritan House in San Mateo for the last 3 years. There she managed over 3500 volunteers and revived and increased their in-kind and grant funding, partially through website tools that encouraged online participation.

Prior to Samaritan House, she was the Director of Community Engagement at The San Francisco Botanical Garden Society for two years, where she grew partnerships with agencies, corporations, and other groups, increasing volunteers and revenues from the Garden's programs by 30 percent. Carol began her nonprofit work in the Bay Areas as the Special Projects Director for HandsOn Bay Area in San Francisco from 2010-2011.

Carol, who lives in Oakland, is especially excited about the prospect of returning to the garden after a hiatus of 3 years.

