

Karen B. Davis

★ **Karen B. Davis** is the CEO and President of the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia and Vice President of Cultural Affairs of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. She is responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of Council staff, policy and programs. Ms. Davis works closely with the Council board to develop and implement the Council's strategic plan, acts as a liaison between the Council and the Chamber of Commerce, interfaces with the cultural community on behalf of the Chamber, and is the Council's chief spokesperson. Ms. Davis is responsible for the development and implementation of new programs and services, diversified fund-raising and public relations strategies, and the overall development and coordination of the *Arts & Business Council Awards Luncheon*.

Ms. Davis joined the Council during its first full year of operation in 1982 and has held the CEO position since 1987. She was instrumental in the development of the Arts & Business Council concept during its early years and is credited with creating fourteen different programs and services through the Council, generating more than \$19 million in business resources to benefit the nonprofit cultural sector. Under her leadership, the Council received the Governor's Award for Leadership and Service to the Arts in 1998- the first and only award given to an organization.

Ms. Davis has been a professional arts manager for more than thirty years both in Philadelphia and New Orleans, Louisiana. Prior to joining the Arts & Business Council, Ms. Davis was the executive director of a Philadelphia dance company, awarded a fellowship position with the National Endowment for the Arts, and was the director of performing arts and special events for the New Orleans Department of Recreation. Her career in the arts began as a professional lighting designer for several theaters in Boston and New Orleans and for WQED Television in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Ms. Davis studied theatrical lighting design at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and at Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts.

Ms. Davis is a director on the national board of the Arts & Business Council Inc. in New York City, board member of Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania, a statewide arts advocacy organization and, one of 12 community leaders to serve on the John S. and James A. Knight Foundation Community Advisory Board. Ms. Davis was also one of the first appointees to the grants awards committee of the Greater Philadelphia Tourism and Marketing Corporation, which was formed by the State of Pennsylvania, City of Philadelphia and The Pew Charitable Trusts. She is a founding member of the City of Philadelphia's Cultural Fund in 1990. Formerly, she was an appointed member of Mayor Rendell's Cultural Advisory Council for the eight years of his leadership. Her other civic leadership includes service on the Advisory Board of Einstein Hospital's Women's Care Pavilion and service on the PR board committee of Women's Way.