



BARBARA SEXTON SMITH

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Chief “Re-Wirement” Officer

Barbara “re-wired” while those around her retired. She likes to say, “There’s no such thing as “retirement” it’s “Re-Wirement!”

As **President & CEO of the Fund for the Arts**, Barbara turned the reins over to the next generation and became the **Chief Liaison for the Compassionate Schools**

Project, the largest and most comprehensive study ever undertaken of a 21st century health and wellness curriculum in an elementary school setting. As one of Louisville’s Connectors, she helped raise more than **\$220 million** whilst working with the Fund for the Arts, Metro United Way, Olmsted Parks Conservancy, NCCJ, West Louisville Boys and Girls Choirs, Community Hunger Walk and many others. Out of 59 United Art Funds in America, the Fund for the Arts was named the #1 United Art Fund in 2012 for most new dollars raised.

She also founded a company to teach the highly sought after **Street-Smart Principled Negotiation** program which focuses on teaching you how to get others to do what you want. Her clients have included Norton Healthcare, Humana, Nissan, General Electric, Brown-Forman, D.D. Williamson, Alcoa, Old National Bank, and Yum! Brands. Barbara was nominated for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award!

Prior to embarking on a long, successful career as a fundraiser, Barbara worked as the National Franchise Director for the Fresher Cooker restaurant chain and was quickly promoted into the upper management ranks of Wendy’s International. Co-Founder of two successful personnel agencies in Louisville in the early eighties.

Selected from a nationwide search to be featured in three books:

1. ***Speaking of Success 2007***
2. ***Remarkable Women of Faith 2007***
3. ***Roadmap to Success 2016***

She spent her childhood dreaming of becoming the manager at Walgreens. After graduating from the University of Louisville’s College of Business in 1979 Barbara says she learned everything she needed to know about management and leadership at Wendy’s. Thank you Dave Thomas!

Along the way she hosted **ArtBEAT!** a weekly radio show and posted more than 100 CEO video blogs as the Fund for the Arts’ avatar! She managed to make sure **400,000 arts experiences are provided for schoolchildren** in our region every year! Barbara has one daughter and six stepchildren.