

## SARA DIAMOND

### Associate consultant



Dr. Sara Diamond is a global strategist with decades of expertise in digital media, design strategy, practice, and policy development. She has led institutional transformation within arts, digital media/ICT, and post-secondary institutions for many years, applying the tools of strategic foresight, design thinking and user-centered design. She has consulted with governments, industry, boards and institutions on digital media, design strategy, the public realm and public art, AI, art, inclusion, and equity. She brings a deep knowledge of the relationships of human practices, culture, and technologies. She is an inventor and lateral thinker. Her objectives are to stay at the cusp of learning, design, diversity, inclusion, and technology. Dr. Diamond is President Emerita at OCAD University after a 15-year presidency. She continues funded research in data analytics and visualization, urban and cultural planning, and media histories. She is co-chair of Toronto's ArtWorxTO, Year of Public Art. She is an Expert Panelist with the Canadian Centre for the Purpose of the Corporation drawing on years of board experience, for example as current Chair of the Research Advisory Committee for Baycrest.

Diamond led OCAD University to retain its traditional strengths in art and design, while transforming the university to build graduate studies and research and enroll international students. Diamond created the Digital Futures Initiative and the Digital Media Research and Innovation Institute; supported OCAD U's unique research in Inclusive Design and Design for Health. She collaborated with Indigenous colleagues to develop the Indigenous Visual Culture Program, with correlative prioritization of Indigenous knowledge and culture. She led significant equity initiatives that changed the demographics of the Board of Governors, institutional leaders, management, faculty, and staff. She built the gallery system at OCAD University. As Artistic Director/Executive Producer Media & Visual Art and Director of Research at The Banff Centre she founded and led the international Banff New Media Institute from 1995 - 2005, initiated and supported Aboriginal Arts and the International Curatorial Institute.

In recognition of her efforts Diamond has received the Order of Canada, C.M. and the Order of Ontario, and the 2013 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for significant contributions to Canada. Recognition includes a Doctor of Science, honoris causa, Simon Fraser University, 2020; the 2020 Exceptional Women of Excellence, Women's Economic Forum; two Media Pioneer awards, from DigiFest, Toronto, April 2019, and the GRAND National Centre of Excellence, 2013; the 2018 Inspiring 50: Advancement of diversity of STEM fields, Government of Netherlands, and Senate of Canada; the Canada 150 Women: Leaders, Champions and Luminaries; Toronto Life's 50 Most Influential. She has been inducted into the Royal Canadian Academy of Art, the International Women's Forum, and the IEEE. Diamond has won awards for digital innovation and video and television production.