ROSIE FORREST

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SUMMARY

Cross-sector strategist and generalist leader with 15+ years identifying emerging opportunities, translating complex ideas across disciplines, and building the partnerships and teams that move them into action. Experienced shaping strategy across nonprofit, education, and cultural organizations, with a human-centered, future-oriented approach grounded in curiosity, discernment, and relationship-building.

EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR, NXT-GEN FELLOWSHIP & GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY **July 2022 – Present**
The HOW Institute for Society, Remote-First
Promoted twice as scope expanded across global leadership, partnerships, and organizational strategy. Connect ideas, people, and institutions to advance HOW's mission and translate emerging opportunities into action.

- Shape organizational strategy around emerging societal and institutional shifts, including AI and the transformation of higher education, translating insights into content, partnerships, convenings, and external positioning.
- Lead strategy for a global fellowship and leadership community spanning 50+ countries, expanding it from a time-bound program into a sustained ecosystem of learning, coaching, executive dialogue, and cross-sector connection.
- Drive priorities emerging from HOW's Rockefeller Foundation-supported Bellagio convening, translating insights into activation, cross-functional ownership, and accountability.
- Curate thought leaders, experts, and executive voices around emerging questions in leadership, technology, culture, and institutions; represent HOW in executive dialogues and cross-sector forums.
- Steward enterprise partnerships with Mastercard, Morgan Stanley, KKR, Levi Strauss & Co., 92NY, Howard University, and others, working with senior leaders to understand priorities, build alignment, and develop multi-year relationships.
- Serve as strategic partner to Founder and Board on program vision, organizational growth, partnerships, and decisions about where HOW should invest its attention and resources.
- Direct a five-person team and global network of 40+ executive coaches per cohort, aligning people, capacity, and program strategy across an international initiative.

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT **August 2018 – July 2022**
OZ Arts, Nashville, TN
Reimagined the role of a contemporary international arts organization as a civic and learning hub, building partnerships and programs that connected artists, educators, institutions, and communities across Nashville.

- Built and stewarded partnerships with 20+ schools, cultural organizations, and civic institutions, including the National Museum of African American Music, Global Education Center, and Metro Nashville Public Schools.
- Designed and launched interdisciplinary STEAM programming reaching 1,600+ students annually, bringing artists and educators together around shared learning goals.
- Created cross-disciplinary platforms for dialogue and connection, including podcasts, writing collaborations, intergenerational workshops, and large-scale community events.
- Led and mentored a roster of 25 teaching artists, reshaping the artist-institution relationship to center artists' lived experience and the communities and students they served.

- Cultivated corporate, foundation, and government partnerships, working with development leadership to shape funding strategies, proposals, and institutional relationships.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, VANDERBILT PROGRAMS FOR TALENTED YOUTH **October 2013 – May 2018**
Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth (PTY), Nashville, TN
Led complex academic and residential programs serving 800+ high-ability students annually, bringing together faculty, staff, university leaders, and families around ambitious learning experiences grounded in intellectual curiosity.

- Led a year-round team of four and 75 seasonal faculty and staff, overseeing hiring, training, performance, and leadership development.
- Coordinated across 10+ university departments to align academic goals, student well-being, institutional requirements, and program execution.
- Designed and led professional development for university faculty, translating program vision into teaching practice and building capacity across disciplines.
- Launched a university-middle school literacy partnership featuring authors including Jacqueline Woodson, Jason Reynolds, and Christopher Paul Curtis.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Professor of Rhetoric & Composition, Creative Writing, and Theatre**
  University of New Hampshire, Northwestern, Vanderbilt, DePaul, and Interlochen Arts Academy
- **Literary Manager/Dramaturg**
  Served as a strategic thought partner, using research, inquiry, and audience perspective to test ideas, sharpen creative vision, and translate across artists, institutions, and audiences. Collaborated with playwrights and directors at Steppenwolf, Goodman, Timeline, Northlight, and others to develop new work and strengthen narrative structure.

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts / Creative Writing, University of New Hampshire
English Dept. Award for Teaching Excellence; Shea Memorial Award, Fiction; and Williams Award, Excellence in Writing

Bachelor of Arts / Theater, University of Virginia
Jefferson Scholar Finalist

AFFILIATIONS

GGSC Bridging Differences Fellowship, 2026-27
NXT-GEN Fellowship, Fellow, Fall 2022
Racial Equity in Arts Leadership 2021-22 Cohort
STEAM Advisory Council, MNPS, 2018-22
Board Member, 2nd Story, 2025-present
Volunteer Reader, Dear Poet, 826 National, 2024
Application Evaluator, UVA Jefferson Scholars, 2021-present
Digital Crisis Counselor, The Trevor Project 2021-24