

Laurie Risch, Executive Director

Laurie Risch is in her 31st year with Behringer-Crawford Museum, 24th as Executive Director. Before becoming Executive Director in 1993, Ms. Risch was the BCM Programs Coordinator and the manager of Accents Art Gallery, Lexington, KY. As BCM Programs Coordinator, she developed the ongoing arts education programming and coordinated activities and programs with the schools and community. As Executive Director, she oversees the growth and development of the museum, including directing and successful fundraising for the \$5.3 million expansion and renovation of the museum and exhibits completed in 2007. She instituted the museum's popular freshART event twenty-five years ago, where local artists participate in a one-day plein-air event that ends with a sale of their works. The program is designed as an art appreciation and educational event that promotes the work of local artists. She has built the museum's art collection to include a significant representation of contemporary and historical visual, decorative and folk art. The museum now holds the largest number of works by two local artists - Wolfgang Ritschel and Harlan Hubbard, and the only collection of folk artist Mary Bruce Sharon in this region. She administers all aspects of museum operations including funding, finance, budget development, capital improvements, exhibits, programs and staff hiring. She is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a degree in Interior Design and Industrial Technology with a Graphic Arts Specialization.

Ms. Risch's community service includes: founding member of Historic Homes & Sites of Greater Cincinnati collaboration; graduate of the Northern KY Leadership Class 1995; member of the NKY Chamber of Commerce, the Women's Initiative, the American Association State and Local History, the KY Humanities Council, the Covington Business Council, the American Association of Museums and the KY Museum and Heritage Alliance. She has served or is serving on the Greater Cincinnati Regional Cultural Planning Commission Steering Committee, the Tall Stacks Regional Festival Committee, the Devou Park Advisory Committee, the Kenton County Community Education Board and the Historic Confederation of Kentucky and the Kentucky Association of Museums Board now merged as the KY Museum and Heritage Alliance serving as Treasurer, the Covington Cultural Arts and Heritage Committee, myNKY Arts/Culture/Tourism Working Group for the region's strategic planning, Public Art Networking Committee, Covington Bicentennial Executive, Education and History and Exhibits Committee, and the KY Historical Society Executive Committee where she serves on the Finance Committee. She is a recipient of the Frank R. Levstik Professional Service Award and the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance's Firefighter Award for her work at the Behringer-Crawford Museum and her service to the museum community in Kentucky.