



Van A. Romans

President

Fort Worth Museum of Science and History

Since Van Romans' appointment as President, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History has undergone a dramatic transformation on multiple levels in a relatively short period of time.

After more than 25 years with The Walt Disney Company, including the creative design and development arm of the company, Walt Disney Imagineering, Romans was recruited to head the Museum of Science in History in February 2004.

Through his leadership, the Museum is in a much more stable position than it has been in recent years, ending a series of annual operating deficits over the past several previous years. Creatively, Romans has invigorated numerous long-standing programs and public areas with an energy and vitality palpably noticeable to the Museum's guests and community.

As an advocate for project-based learning, and renowned for having pioneered the concept of integrating the entertainment industry and the museum world through his establishment of the museum program for The Walt Disney Company, Romans has created galleries and cultural exhibitions around the world. As the company's Executive Director, Cultural Affairs, he founded the Disney gallery concept, negotiating with governments, cultural institutions, and private lenders from around the world and overseeing the company's exhibition development program for theme parks worldwide. Several notable projects during his tenure at Disney include his concepts of exhibits for World Showcase pavilions at Epcot, Disneyland and Tokyo Disneyland. In creating Disney's International Art and Museum Program, he also established the company's collections management program and implemented museum standards for the care and control of the Walt Disney Imagineering art collection.

Romans' work in the museum field extends beyond his work inside the Disney corporation. For more than 30 years, he was a professor of exhibit design and museum management at the college level. He has also served as a key advisor to numerous prestigious museums, both in the United States and abroad. Several of his noteworthy projects include work with the Gene Autry National Center for Western Culture in Los Angeles; National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in Fort Worth; the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois; the D-Day Museum in New Orleans; the Los Angeles Children's Court Art Program; the National Museum of New Zealand; the Venezuela Museum of Anthropology; the Smithsonian; the Palace Museum in Beijing; and his service to the Art in Embassies for the U.S. State Department. He also directed the Public Arts Committee for the University of Southern California.

Romans received his BA at the University of California and a Master of Fine Arts at USC. He has been a featured speaker at numerous museum and industry conferences over the years, addressing topics related to the integration of the entertainment industry, education, and the museum world. He is a founding member of the Institute of American Indian Arts Museum and was an advisor to the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia.