

John Cain

Executive Director South Shore Arts and the Northwest Indiana Symphony

John Cain has served South Shore Arts as executive director since 1993 and has been instrumental in the organization's rise as a leader in the cultural life of the Calumet Region. He has led South Shore Arts through an evolutionary phase, culminating in the opening of two branch locations and its designation by the Indiana Arts Commission as a Regional Arts Partner.

Effective July 1, 2008, a management agreement between South Shore Arts and the Northwest Indiana Symphony Society made South Shore Arts the exclusive management and operations agent for the Symphony, responsible for planning, budgeting, fundraising, marketing, governance, education, administration, contract negotiation and accounting, under which Mr. Cain became executive director of both organizations.

Locally, he is a member of the Northwest Indiana Quality of Life Council and the East Chicago Arts Initiative. He serves on the boards of the Ridgewood Arts Foundation, the Friends of Emerson School for Visual and Performing Arts, the Miller Beach Arts & Creative District and the Lake Courthouse Foundation. He was the founding chairman of the Mayor's Hammond Commission for the Arts and Humanities. Beyond Northwest Indiana, Mr. Cain has served as a board member of Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art in Chicago and as a grant panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts. He has curated exhibits in Indiana for South Shore Arts and in Illinois for Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art and the Carl Hammer Gallery, both located in Chicago.

Mr. Cain is a contributing editor of Shore magazine and the host of "Eye on the Arts," a weekly segment on Lakeshore Public Television evening news. He is an avid collector of American folk and outsider art, Chicago art from the WPA era to the present and American popular culture. He was a recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash Award from Governor Joseph Kernan in 2004. The Indiana Coalition for the Arts Foundation gave him its 2009 Community Arts Leadership Award for Arts Administrator of the Year.