

Joe Baker Bio

Joe Baker, the Executive Director of Longue Vue House and Gardens, has a 25-year career as a museum professional, curator, educator, and artist. Known for his willingness and proven ability to work within structures undergoing periods of significant transition, Baker has enhanced exhibits and programming, revitalized collections, increased funding, added new audiences, and garnered greater community support at universities, museums, and cultural organizations across the nation.

Professional highlights include tenure as the Director for Community Engagement for the Herberger Institute of Design and the Arts at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona; the Lloyd Kiva New Curator of Fine Art for the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona; the Dean of the Center for Arts and Culture Studies for the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico; and the Director of the Arts in Education Program for the Phoenix Office of Art and Culture.

Baker has also held teaching positions at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas, and East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina.

A strong believer in community service, Baker—an enrolled member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma—is on the Editorial Advisory Board for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian and the American Indian Advisory Board for Idyllwild Arts. He recently served as the National Program Chair for Imagining America, a consortium of universities engaged in public scholarship.

Baker, a recognized entrepreneurial leader, is the recipient of a Piper Fellowship from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and a Contemporary Catalyst Award from the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art. Baker, who is also an accomplished artist, has received the Joan Mitchell Foundation Award in Painting.

Baker graduated from the University of Tulsa with a BFA degree in Design and an MFA in Painting and Drawing. He has also undertaken postgraduate study at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, where he completed the Management Development Program.

Baker and his wife, Joey, live in Uptown New Orleans. His interests include art in public spaces, textile design, beadwork, and community gardens.