

**Johnette Isham & Associates, Inc.**

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Johnette Isham

President and founder of Isham and Associates, Inc. a consulting firm focused on **capacity through design: strengthening people, programs, place, and process.**

Throughout her 30-year career in educational, government, and corporate settings, Johnette Isham has harnessed creativity to advance learning and to build organizations. Her approach to planning and project management is that of a designer-educator skilled in creative problem solving, opportunity creation, and partnership development. She excels in extending design concepts to effect positive change to turn ideas into reality.

Johnette's background includes extensive experience in almost every aspect of organizational life, including research, planning, accreditation, program development, outcomes assessment, marketing, enrollment management, and technology optimization. With the advantage of such broad experience, she is effective at creating internal networks and external partnerships to improve outcomes, organizational momentum, and financial performance.

Johnette believes that all organizations can be transformed through the creative design process to increase resources, reputation, revenue, and reach. A current partner is The Wellness Community of Southwest Florida, part of an international organization that provides free programs and services to people with cancer and their caregivers. Her work entails a strategic repositioning of the organization through the alignment of people, place, and programs. The Art of Healing Project she directs will serve as an international model for the integration of art, design, nature, and environmental sustainability for the 23 other wellness communities worldwide.

As Ringling School of Art and Design's Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1988-2006, Johnette provided the academic leadership that led to the four-year baccalaureate curriculum from a three-year certificate, the total restructuring of every academic department, and the initiation of Institutional Technology, Liberal Arts, and Computer Animation. Responsible for 200 faculty and staff, she led the Degree Program, Continuing Studies and Special Programs, and the academic support areas: Admissions, Financial Aid, Advising and Registration, Academic Resource Center, Selby Gallery, Kimbrough Library, The Design Center, and Institutional Technology.

During her 18 year tenure, Ringling School became one of the top-tier art and design colleges in the United States. In this time, the degree program enrollment more than doubled despite a tuition discount rate of only 3%, the graduation rate grew from 48% to 70%, and the School received only 1 recommendation for corrective action from 2 regional and 2 national accreditation visits (SACS and NASAD) occurring in 1995/96 and 2005/06.

Prior to her appointment at Ringling School, Johnette was Director of Continuing Education and Special Programs at Rhode Island School of Design and led the growth of corporate training, certificate, travel, and community arts programs, while increasing both enrollment and net profit by over 45%. Previously, she was Director of Student Development and Counseling Services and strengthened the coordination between curricular and co-curricular education and developed career-life planning programs.

Before entering higher education, Johnette founded the nationally recognized Providence City Spirit Program and raised over 1 million in funding from government, corporate, and private sources. This urban education program linked artists and designers with students and their teachers in city exploration and community service projects. Johnette authored and designed Discover Providence and distributed it along with a film on the project throughout the nation. The Royal Society of the Arts in London recently highlighted her program at an international symposium entitled: Transforming Urban Communities. As an educator and designer she has also worked for the Polaroid Corporation, Corning Glass Works, and Malcolm Grear Designers.

Johnette is active in national and regional organizations, has served as a board member of the National Council of Arts Administrators, and is currently President of the Sarasota Women's Alliance. She has been trained by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to serve as an on-site evaluator for their new standards and Quality Enhancement Project (QEP) requirement and by the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) to conduct board development workshops. She holds her M.Ed. in Integrated Arts with a focus on curriculum and assessment from Lesley College and B.F.A. in Graphic Design from the Rhode Island School of Design.