

STEPHEN HAMILTON

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NONPROFIT ARTS EXECUTIVE | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | ARTS CONSULTANT | ARTS EDUCATOR

Strategic nonprofit arts leader with 30+ years of experience building and sustaining mission-driven cultural organizations through start up, growth phases, capital transitions, fundraising campaigns, and program expansion. Proven ability to lead boards and staff, strengthen earned and contributed revenue, build partnerships, and deliver high-quality public programs. Particularly experienced in East End / Suffolk County arts ecosystems; available for interim leadership, consulting engagements, or part-time executive roles.

Core Strengths

Executive Leadership • Nonprofit Operations • Board/Trustee Partnership • Fundraising & Development • Earned Income Strategy • Budgeting & Financial Oversight • Strategic Planning • Capital/Construction Transitions • Program Development • External Relations & Partnerships • Communications & Marketing • Community Engagement • Event Production & Special Events • Staff Leadership & Growth • Arts Education

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SOUTH FORK BAKERY — Sag Harbor, NY

Executive Director | 2023–2025

Not-for-profit organization providing meaningful, paid employment to adults with disabilities. Recruited to lead sustainability planning and organizational transition following founder retirement.

Selected leadership accomplishments:

- Guided the organization through a major leadership transition with a focus on long-term sustainability and operational continuity.
 - Expanded staffing and strengthened internal infrastructure to support organizational growth.
 - Managed a growing budget and strengthened financial systems and planning.
 - Increased contributed income 150% through sponsorship and events programming.
 - Created and launched new programs and special events to expand visibility, engagement, and revenue.
 - Implemented LAUNCH, SFB's Training and Employment Program, expanding workforce training and building employer partnerships throughout Suffolk County.
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FRIENDS OF BAY STREET — Sag Harbor, NY

Consultant (Strategic Planning & Communications) | 2021–2023

Provided strategic consulting to nonprofit supporting Bay Street Theater's facility planning, communications, and campaign positioning.

- Consulted on strategic planning, stakeholder communications, and organizational development supporting a major proposed transition/relocation initiative.

SAG HARBOR CINEMA ARTS CENTER — Sag Harbor, NY
Interim Executive Director | 2019–2020

Led operations, fundraising, and public programming during rebuild and capital transition following the fire that destroyed the original building.

- Oversaw new construction planning and interim operations.
- Produced off-site programming (outdoors and at partner venues) to maintain public presence and donor/community engagement.
- Supported fundraising and campaign activity during high-visibility community rebuilding period.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY — Southampton, NY
Arts Administrator / Adjunct Faculty | 2009–2020

Founder & Director, Southampton Playwriting Conference

- Founded and led annual conference under Stony Brook Southampton's MFA in Creative Writing; managed planning, staffing, enrollment, scheduling, marketing, programming, and fiscal oversight.

Producer / Chief Development Officer, Young Artists & Writers Project (YAWP)

- Led fundraising, marketing/promotion, and oversight for youth arts education program.
- Staffed and produced semi-annual Young Playwrights Festival.

Associate Director, MFA in Theater

- Co-created and launched new graduate program; led course planning, budgeting, fundraising, and student mentorship.

Adjunct Faculty (MFA Creative Writing & Film; Creative Writing Minor)

- Taught playwriting, acting, directing.

BAY STREET THEATRE — Sag Harbor, NY
Co-Founder & Executive Director | 1991–2008

Led one of the nation's recognized regional theaters through founding, growth, artistic development, and institutional maturation.

"One of the country's pre-eminent regional theaters." — Newsday

- Led strategic planning, initial construction, budgeting, fundraising, board development, marketing, and production.
- Produced 50+ mainstage productions including numerous world and American premieres which transferred to Broadway and Off-Broadway.
- Oversaw support programming such as concert series, comedy, children's programs, and educational outreach.
- Built strong relationships with artists, donors, regional institutions, and community stakeholders.
- Oversaw organizational operations and public programming serving local and visiting audiences.

ENSEMBLE STUDIO THEATRE (EST), New York, NY

Member, Dir. Summer Conference, Faculty, Trustee | 1983 - present

- Longstanding member of EST, the leading Off-Broadway artist-driven theatre dedicated to developing new American plays. (1983 – present)
- Served as Director of the EST Summer Conference, overseeing programming, faculty/artist selection, and scheduling (1989 – 1990)
- Faculty member, Ensemble Studio Theater Institute (1989 – 1991)
- Served as Trustee, contributing to organizational governance, strategic planning, and institutional stewardship during period following transition of Founding Artistic Director (2008 – 2010)

SELECTED PRODUCING / PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

SAG HARBOR CINEMA ARTS CENTER — Sag Harbor, NY

Co-Producer, American Values and Artists Love Movies Film Series | 2017–2018

- Produced film series and moderated discussion-based events with directors, writers, and artists; delivered programming across East End venues during construction period.

BAY STREET THEATER – Sag Harbor, NY

Founding Executive Director/Producer | 1992 – 2008

- ***The Boy Friend*** by Sandy Wilson
Directed by Julie Andrews (directorial debut)
2004 Transferred to Goodspeed Opera House, CT; 2004/05 National Tour
- ***Hedda Gabler*** by Henrik Ibsen, adapted by Jon Robin Baitz | 2000
Directed by Nicholas Martin; Featuring Kate Burton
Transferred to Broadway, Ambassador Theatre; Tony Award nomination for “Best Actress in a Play”
- ***Noel and Gertie*** (American Premiere) Created by Sheridan Morely
Directed by Leigh Lawson; Featuring Twiggy
1999 Transferred to the Lucille Lortel Theatre, NYC as “If Love Were All”
- ***By the Sea, By the Sea, By the Beautiful Sea*** (World Premiere) | 1995
by Terrence McNally, Joe Pintauro and Lanford Wilson; Directed by Leonard Foglia
Transferred to The Manhattan Theatre Club, NYC
- ***Blue Light*** (World Premiere) by Cynthia Ozick
Directed by Sidney Lumet; Featuring Dianne Weist and Mercedes Ruehl
Transferred to the Jewish Rep, NYC
- ***Three Hotels*** by Jon Robin Baitz | 1992
Directed by Joe Mantello; Featuring Ron Rifkin and Maria Tucci
Subsequently produced at Circle Repertory Theatre, NYC and in London’s West End
- ***Full Gallop*** (World Premiere) by Mark Hampton and Marie Louise Wilson | 1993
Subsequently produced at the Old Globe Theatre, CA and Manhattan Theatre Club, NYC

DIRECTING (SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS)

- *Fahrenheit 451* (also adapted by Stephen Hamilton) — Bay Street Theater, 2025
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* — Bay Street Theater, 2024
- *The Pillowman* — PTEE / Kassir Productions, 2024

- *All My Sons* — Guild Hall / John Drew Theater, 2015 (starring Alec Baldwin & Laurie Metcalf)
- *Uncle Vanya* — Guild Hall / John Drew Theater, 2012 (also performed role of Astrov)
- *Gross Points* (World Premiere) – Bay Street Theater, 2001 (starring Alec Baldwin)

EDUCATION

Ohio University — Theatre Arts

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- South Fork Bakery — Trustee, 2022–2026
- Sag Harbor Cinema Arts Center — Advisory Board, 2016–Present
- Bay Street Theatre — Trustee, 1992–2008
- Ensemble Studio Theatre — Member; Member’s Council Chairman

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

SAG-AFTRA | AEA | Ensemble Studio Theatre | Sag Harbor Cinema Arts Center