

Biographical Summary • Catherine McEver

Overview

Catherine McEver has established a successful track record as an independent consultant specializing in program design, staff training, group problem solving, strategic planning, and creative documentation.

McEver's background in innovative approaches to education has encompassed curriculum design, teacher training and program development, including design of a series of award-winning national demonstration projects for inner city youth for the Department of Labor, the U.S. Office of Education, and the National Alliance of Business. She honed her skills in group facilitation, problem solving, and consensus decision making as researcher, writer, and trainer on a series of pioneer projects on problem solving and educational leadership funded by the Carnegie Corporation. She is author of *The Strategy Notebook*, a compendium of problem solving strategies published by Interaction Associates, and a contributor to the how-to guide, *Making Meetings Work*.

Curriculum development credits include a landmark series of workbooks on study skills and college planning for middle school and high school students, with accompanying teacher and mentor guides. The workbooks were developed under contract to the Haas School of Business at U.C. Berkeley for outreach to inner city schools statewide.

McEver also holds seasoned expertise in fund raising and grant writing. An in-depth understanding of the funding process from initial planning to final reporting has enabled her to develop proposals that have raised substantial sums from private foundations, the corporate sector, and state and federal sources.

McEver is also a free-lance feature writer for local and national publications including the *East Bay Express*, *Berkeley Monthly*, *Frisko*, *San Francisco Magazine*, *SF-The Magazine of Design and Style*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *California Lawyer*. Her writing credits include national awards for script writing for a series of public service television spots on parenting and the family for the NBC affiliate in Salt Lake and travel writing for Fodors, Sasquatch Press, and the Los Angeles Times Syndicate International. Her art background includes illustration for a range of Bay Area magazines, an award-winning animated short film, and a series of art show, gallery, and museum credits. She devotes her spare time to working on mixed media assemblage art.

Museum and Education Consortia Documentation

Over the past two decades Catherine McEver has applied her writing, graphic, and design skills to creative documentation for art and science museums as well as national education consortia. The documentation serves as a reference and resource guide as well as an effective means of reporting to funding sources, board members, key decision makers, and the field at large.

For museums, the focus ranges from program and exhibit development to museum-wide planning, cross-museum consortia, and symposiums designed to inform the field. Subject matter has ranged from skyscrapers, life science, seeing, the mind, and Native American history, to the role of art museums in communities, the use of handheld computers in museums, and effective utilization of formative evaluation. McEver is coeditor with Kathleen McLean of the NSF-funded book, *Are We There Yet?*, which examines the concept of best practices in science museum exhibitions, published in 2004 and available through the Association of Science-Technology Centers and the Exploratorium.

Documentation of education consortia has included national think tanks, blue-sky sessions, formal-informal education collaborations, and learning conferences for NSF-funded research programs and partnerships that are national in scope.