

Consultant Biography

MICHELE BAIRD COUNTER

Michele Baird Counter is a Principal in DHR's Nonprofit Practice. In this role she specializes in nonprofit executive search, working with clients in the US and internationally. The assignments she works on include searches for nonprofit President/Chief Executives, as well as senior leadership in finance and administration, fundraising, marketing, education, programs, and other areas.

Ms. Counter has also assisted nonprofits with a variety of consulting projects concerning strategy, governance, and nonprofit compensation. She has worked with arts and cultural organizations, social service nonprofits, international development NGOs, health-related organizations, foundations, zoos and aquariums, associations, and educational organizations including colleges and universities.

Ms. Counter has specialized in nonprofit executive search for over ten years. Prior to joining DHR in 2001, she was a director in the Nonprofit Practice at A.T. Kearney in New York, NY. Earlier in her career, Ms. Counter worked in the field of social services.

In addition to serving as nonprofit research leader and knowledge specialist for DHR's nonprofit assignments, Ms. Counter's responsibilities include business development and branding activities for the Nonprofit Practice, including industry research and publications. Among this research is the Cultural Index, a survey project that tracks the level of optimism among CEOs of arts institutions. Ms. Counter oversaw this study, published in *Crain's New York Business*, from 1998-2006 and transitioned it to The Center for Nonprofit and Philanthropic Leadership at Rutgers Business School. She has coordinated similar cultural surveys in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, and Berlin.

Ms. Counter is also active in the nonprofit sector as a volunteer and Board member. She serves on the Board of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Triangle/Eastern NC chapter, as an Executive Committee Member and Chair of Community Outreach. She also serves on the Advisory Board of UNC Chapel Hill's Pediatric Endocrinology program, and has worked with Business Volunteers for the Arts in New York and in Washington, DC. She is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and Women in Development-New York.

Ms. Counter has an MBA and MA in Arts Administration from Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX). She earned a BA in Art History from Duke University (Durham, NC).

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DHR International

One Newark Center
1085 Raymond Blvd., 14th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102
T: 919.465.9354
F: 973.792.1539
mcounter@dhrinternational.com
www.dhrinternational.com

