



Gina Pollara – Biography

Gina Pollara is currently senior advisor to ReThinkNYC, a unified transportation plan for the New York City region. She was president and CEO of The Municipal Art Society (MAS) in 2016, a nearly 125-year-old civic advocacy organization that fights for the responsible stewardship and design excellence of NYC's public realm and built environment.

Prior to her work at MAS, Ms. Pollara provided strategic urban and design planning as well as fundraising and organizational development to a number of public and private organizations, and was the East Coast representative for the Vancouver, Canada-based firm Bing Thom Architects.

Ms. Pollara has designed and managed construction on a wide range of projects. From 2006 to 2013, she served as executive director of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park, which constructed the memorial designed by the architect Louis I. Kahn on the southern tip of Roosevelt Island in New York City to commemorate the 32nd President of the United States.

As Associate Director of the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture Archives of The Cooper Union from 2001 to 2006, she co-curated a number of exhibitions including the seminal one on the FDR Memorial in 2005 that launched the successful effort to build the project.

Ms. Pollara is an advocate for the preservation, promotion, and use of historic records. Using archival materials, she has mounted exhibitions and contributed to books on the New York City's waterfront and water supply system.

Ms. Pollara has lectured widely on Louis Kahn and her water-related projects, and has been a visiting professor and guest critic at Arizona State University, The Cooper Union, Columbia University, Parsons School of Design, Pratt Institute, Morgan State University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Virginia Tech.

She is a board member of the New York Preservation Archive Project, and is on the Advisory Boards of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial and the Neighborhood Preservation Center.

Ms. Pollara holds a Bachelor of Architecture Degree from the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture of The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art and a Bachelor of Art Degree from Bennington College.