

Larry Bell is Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives at the Museum of Science in Boston and Director of the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network, a major NSF initiative to raise public awareness, understanding, and engagement with nanoscale science, engineering, and technology. He has worked in the Education and Exhibit Departments at the Museum of Science in a variety of positions since 1971. He led a team of exhibit developers from 1986 to 2008 in implementing a long-range plan for science center exhibits employing constructivist learning experiences to provide visitors with practice in scientific thinking skills. Currently he is also Associate Director of the National Center for Technological Literacy and engaged in developing models for technology and engineering education in informal learning environments, with special attention to public engagement with societal implications of science and technology and activities that engage the public in dialogue and deliberation around socio-scientific issues. He currently is leading the launch of a community of practice on public engagement with science in the informal science education community. He is a past board member of the Visitor Studies Association and of the Society for the Study of Nanosciences and Emerging Technologies. He received a B.S. in Physics and an M.S. in Earth and Planetary Science from M.I.T. in 1971.