

Michele Hodges President Belle Isle Conservancy



Michele commenced her tenure as president of the Belle Isle Conservancy in January of 2013. Formed in the fall of 2011 through a merger of four existing nonprofits - Friends of Belle Isle, Belle Isle Botanical Society, Belle Isle Women's Committee and Friends of the Belle Isle Aquarium — the new Conservancy, in partnership with the City of Detroit, will bring more private and public resources to our beautiful island park.

Its organizational mission is to protect, preserve, restore and enhance the natural environment, historic structures and unique character of Belle Isle as a public park for the enjoyment of all – now and forever.

Prior to the Conservancy, Michele had been President of the Troy Chamber since 2001, a dynamic organization comprised by more than 700 of Troy's top companies, and established in 1959. Its objectives were oriented toward economic development, entrepreneurship, globalization, and leadership. Most recently, Michele worked to advance the Troy Transit Center.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Michele held a variety of economic development positions with the Detroit Regional Chamber. She has served as director of the DDA and as a business development team member for the City of Southfield, and as director of economic development for the City of Eastpointe.

She holds a Bachelors Degree in Social Science (Urban Planning) from Michigan State University. She is a graduate of the Michigan Political Leadership Program, and the Institute for Organization Management, in addition to earning multiple training certificates. She sits on numerous boards and committees, is a member of the 2007 Crain's Detroit Business *40 under 40* class, was identified as a *Leader/Innovator* by the Great Lakes IT Report, one of Michigan's *Most Influential Women* by Inforum and Deloitte, and *Michigan Chamber Professional of the Year* by the MACP.