

Ryan P. Martin

Nonprofit Executive

Education

Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE)

CFRE International, May 2026

M.S. Sustainable Food Systems

Green Mountain College, May 2016

B.S. Environmental Studies

University of Maine at Machias, May 2012

Leadership Experience

Executive Director

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute –

Oct 2023 – Present

- Lead a nationally recognized nonprofit focused on food/agriculture research, education, and policy.
- Oversee \$2.6M in USDA-funded programs and manage a multi-state team of 10+ staff and dozens of contractors.
- Develop and implement long-term strategies with the Board to support mission growth and impact.
- Represent the organization publicly, build strategic partnerships, and guide communications and development.
- Lead all aspects of operations, including HR, finance, and grants administration.

Executive Director

Viles Arboretum – Augusta, ME

June 2020 – Dec 2023

- Directed one of Maine's largest public nature centers, a 220-acre hub for agroforestry, permaculture, education, and climate adaptation.

- Increased revenue by 42% through strategic fundraising, donor engagement, and coalition building.
- Built partnerships across government, nonprofit, and academic sectors to expand reach and impact.
- Oversaw HR, finance, and operations in collaboration with the Board and small staff team.

City Councilor

Hallowell, ME

Nov 2022 – Sept 2024

- Elected on a platform of environmental sustainability and good governance.
- Co-authored and led the passage of a pioneering municipal ban on cosmetic pesticide use.
- Chair of the Recreation Commission; also served on Public Lands and Health & Wellness Committees.

Director, Summer Institute

Tilton School – Tilton, NH

Feb 2019 – 2020

- Led a global STEAM program focused on sustainability, design, and agriculture.
- Recruited faculty and students internationally and coordinated travel, curriculum, and partnerships.
- Reported directly to the CEO; oversaw budgeting, team coaching, and communications.

Consulting Experience

Windsor Fair Education Association

April 2025 - Present

- Raising funding for an agricultural education center using state, federal, and private funding. Assisting with the development of a statewide program approach.

Cultivating Community – Portland, ME

Feb 2022 – Aug 2023

- Supported operations, staff development, and grant strategy for an agricultural justice nonprofit serving asylum seekers and low-income families.

Bold ReUse – Portland, OR
Jan 2022 – Mar 2023

- Provided grant writing and partnership support for a systems-change initiative focused on reusable foodware across the Pacific Northwest.

Lexicon of Sustainability – Petaluma, CA
June – Nov 2016

- Developed curriculum content for a national educational initiative promoting local sustainability and civic engagement.

Teaching & Education

Horticulture/Agriculture Teacher
Midcoast School of Technology – Rockland, ME
Aug 2012 – Jan 2019

- Created and taught a CTE-certified agriculture program integrating theory and hands-on farming.
- Led instruction across aquaponics, greenhouse management, fruit and vegetable production, livestock, and business operations. Recognized for curriculum innovation and student engagement.
- Dual Enrollment Instructor through Kennebec County Community College

Program Director
Maine Trust for Education in Conservation – Sullivan, ME
Summers 2007 – 2012

- Led youth environmental education programming on a working farm.
- Integrated sustainability, food systems, and design thinking into outdoor experiential learning.

Volunteer Leadership

- **Director**, Kennebec County Cooperative Extension Executive Board - 2026 - Present
- **Interim President**, Maineshare – 2021
Assisted in organizational transition and acquisition by Maine Initiatives.

- **Vice President**, Waldo County UMaine Cooperative Extension Council – 2014–2015
 - **Chair**, Islesboro Farmers Market – 2014–2015
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Awards & Recognition

- “The Teacher: Islesboro Central School” – *Portland Press Herald*, Spring 2016
 - Maine Community Foundation Policy Scholar – 2010–2011
 - Maine Campus Compact Award for Environmental Civic Engagement – 2009
 - Student Senate – University of Maine at Machias, 2008–2009
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Fundraising Summary

Over the last 24 months, developed, managed, or supported 89 grant proposals (state, federal, and private) representing more than \$10.1M in documented request volume, including two major federal Congressionally Directed Spending requests.