

LEIGHANN SCOTT BOLAND, CFRE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dynamic nonprofit executive with more than 30 years of experience leading educational, cultural, and community organizations. Proven success in strategic growth, fundraising, board development, and cross-sector partnerships. Recognized for building high-impact programs, expanding diverse participation, and stewarding strong financial performance. Brings a collaborative leadership style, a passion for community engagement, and a demonstrated record of advancing mission-driven organizations through both growth and transition.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Executive Leadership • Strategic Planning • Fundraising & Philanthropy • Board Relations • Program & Community Management • Financial Management • Public-Private Partnerships • Communications & Advocacy • Organizational Growth • Volunteer Management

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Virginia Capitol Foundation – Richmond, VA | Executive Director (2026-present)

- Support ongoing restoration, preservation, and interpretation of Virginia Capitol
- Board management
- Nonprofit administration
- General nonprofit fundraising support

DLG Strategic – Richmond, VA | Consultant (2025-present)

- Board management
- Campaign feasibility
- General nonprofit fundraising support

The Endowment Project Foundation – Richmond, VA | Interim Executive Director (2024)

- Launched operational foundation for new statewide nonprofit supporting Virginia public high schools
- Directed daily operations, budgeting, marketing, and communications
- Curated and stewarded funding requests and grants up to 6 figures for 30+ schools and educators
- Led board development, created governance tools, and increased stakeholder engagement

The Woman's Club of Richmond / Bolling Haxall House Foundation – Richmond, VA | Executive Director / Development Director (2023–2024)

- Led operations of 1,200+ member historic women's organization and managed 2 501(c)(3) boards
- Increased annual giving by 6% and special events revenue by 20%
- Secured \$400,000+ in startup funding to support 2025 launch of \$3M capital campaign
- Oversaw exterior historic renovation project of the 1857 state and national historic landmark building

VirginiaFIRST dba FIRST Chesapeake – Richmond, VA | President & Executive Director (2017-2022)/ Chief Fundraising Officer (2015-2022) / Operations Manager (2010–2015)

- Directed 20+ year-old STEM education-based nonprofit serving 10,000+ students annually across VA, DC, and MD – annual budget approximately \$1.3M
- Increased corporate and foundation support by 65% in first year as Development Director
- Consolidated 3 nonprofits in Virginia, DC, and Maryland into single branded organization which produced 20+ public events (attendance 5K-12K per event) annually
- Supervised 20+ staff and 4,400+ volunteers
- Expanded diversity-focused and after school programs in under-resourced urban and rural communities, including Richmond, District of Columbia, Hampton Roads, and the New River Valley.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Virginia Association of Museums – Director of TimeTravelers Program (1997-2007)

- Expanded TimeTravelers program from 30 to 360 museums
- Generated \$1.6M+ annual tourism revenue
- Managed statewide professional development for 1,000+ museum professionals

Commonwealth Grant Consultants – Owner (2004–2009)

- Secured federal and private foundation support for education, health, and cultural nonprofits
- Successfully secured up to 5-figure grants through NIH, NEH, Virginia Commission for the Arts, and many Virginia-based private foundations.

Virginia Opera – Special Events & Volunteer Coordinator (1996–1997)

Virginia Association of Museums – Programs Coordinator (1994-1996)

Maymont Foundation – Historical Programs Coordinator (1992–1994)

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

B.A., Historic Preservation – University of Mary Washington

Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), Certified through 2028

LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEERISM

Virginia Association of Fundraising Executives – Board Member and Program Committee Co-Chair (2024-present)

Black History Museum & Cultural Center of VA – Special Projects Volunteer for inaugural BHMCC Living Legacies Awards (February 2026)

Richmond History Makers – Selection Committee (2016-2018)

Leadership Metro Richmond – 2016 Alumni, Community Mentor & Annual Fund Volunteer

Ginter Park Residents' Association – Board Member and Secretary (2003-2007)

PRESENTATIONS & RECOGNITION

Governor's Award – Virginia Business/Education Partnership (TimeTravelers Program)

American Association for State & Local History – Innovative Programs (TimeTravelers Program)

Historic Richmond Foundation – Golden Hammer Award Finalist (exterior renovation Bolling Haxall House)