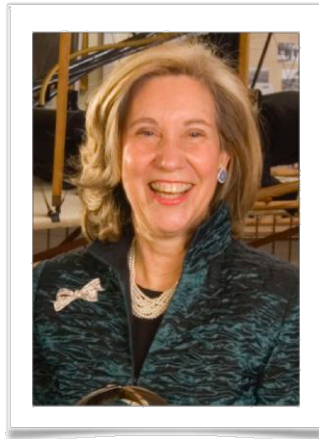




Trustee Biography



Cynthia V.A. Schaffner

Cynthia Van Allen Schaffner is a decorative arts historian specializing in American furniture, textiles and folk art. She has been a researcher at the American Wing of The Metropolitan Museum of Art since 1997 researching and writing for exhibitions and collections catalogues including, Amelia Peck's, *Interwoven Globe: The Worldwide Textiles Trade, 1500-1800*, Amelia Peck's, *American Quilts & Coverlets in The Metropolitan Museum of Art*, and Frances Safford's *American Furniture in the Metropolitan Museum of Art: Early Colonial Period: The Seventeenth-Century and William and Mary Styles*. Other assignments have included writing exhibition labels and the scripts for the new American Wing period room interactive touch screens.

Before coming to the American Wing, Cynthia co-authored, with Susan Klein, *American Painted Furniture, 1790-1800* and *Folk Hearts: The Heart Motif in American Folk Art* and they authored many articles on American folk art, American painted furniture and textiles. She was a trustee of the American Folk Art Museum, served as co-chair of the Fall Antiques Show for seventeen years; was a member and chair of the Museum's Friends Committee and coordinator of the docent program. She has taught courses at the American Folk Art Institute and lectured widely on folk art, painted furniture, quilts and samplers and is presently on the Education Committee of the Museum. She holds a Masters Degree in the History of Decorative Arts from the Smithsonian, Cooper-Hewitt Museum and a Masters Degree in Teaching from Simmons College. Cynthia lives in Manhattan with her husband, Robert T. Schaffner, a retired vice president of Goldman Sachs and president of RTS Advisers.

Cynthia was formally welcomed to the Board of the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club in May 2012. She is a member of the Education Assistance Program Committee, the Development Committee and has served as Board Secretary since 2013.