

BIOGRAPHY

Virginia Oberlin Steel has 35 years of experience conceiving and implementing arts programs in a wide range of media, designed to support artists in presenting new work and to actively engage viewers and audiences in gaining appreciation and understanding of contemporary art. She began her career in 1976 as Curator Exhibition and Collection Programs of the Stedman Gallery at Rutgers University's Camden Campus. In 1979, she also founded the undergraduate Museum Studies Program and directed the program until 1997. She was promoted in 1987 to Director of the Exhibition, Education, and Collection Programs. And in 1997, she became founding director of the Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts (RCCA), which included programming in the Stedman Gallery, the 650-seat Gordon Theater, and the Black Box Studio. Under her leadership, the RCCA received many grants and awards and was designated a Major Arts Organization by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. In early 2012, Steel moved to Grounds For Sculpture, where she is now Curator of Exhibitions, responsible for organizing 10 – 12 indoor exhibitions annually. Steel received a BA in art history and philosophy from the University of Hartford and a MA in art history from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

ABSTRACT:

A talk and PowerPoint presentation about Grounds For Sculpture (GFS). GFS was founded by J. Seward Johnson, Jr. and opened to the public in 1992. Since its inception, the park has collected over 260 works including sculptures by renowned artists such as Beverly Pepper, George Segal, Isaac Witkin, Magdalena Abakanowicz, Anthony Caro, James Surls, and Kiki Smith, among many others. In 2000, Grounds For Sculpture became a public not-for-profit corporation that relies on the support of visitors, art patrons, donations and grants to fund its programs and activities. Today, GFS hosts over 160,000 visitors annually who are attracted by the placement of sculptures in a beautifully landscaped natural setting, the changing exhibitions series – approximately 12 indoor and 8 outdoor annually – as well as the many educational programs and other activities offered.