



Ron Walters Background Information

Ron Walters is an independent design thinking and strategy consultant, working with organizations to discover new possibilities and determine alternative futures. During more than four decades of experience he has provided insights and leadership for moving organizations to new levels of effectiveness and vision, defined and enabled turnarounds, brought disparate groups into alignment, and created entirely new programs and enterprises. The foundation for his work is a conviction that planning is a process of discovery, and unleashing the power of design transforms organizations.

During the 70's Ron pioneered the fields of geographic information systems and ecological planning, founding Comarc Systems, which completed major planning projects throughout the United States and Asia as well as developing and installing large scale planning and mapping systems for scores of corporations and government agencies. During the 80's these planning methodologies were expanded beyond environmental issues to address economic, social and management changes, and the practice joined Deloitte, Haskins and Sells (now Deloitte Touche). There, Ron headed a national practice unit providing strategic planning services, based in New York City and San Francisco.

Ron later chose to return to independent practice as a strategy consultant, affecting major change at the top for typically large organizations. Along the way, Ron also founded 21st Century Learning Institute, an organization dedicated to engaging parents and communities in their children's learning. He was also the primary creator of "Ambassadors for Education", a community awareness workshop distributed by the National Association of Partners in Education (NAPE). He has also taught Design Thinking at the University of Idaho and worked with University Leadership to establish strategic initiatives.

More than 100 strategy clients have included The World Bank, International Paper, Federal Reserve Bank, John Hancock, Government of Indonesia, Fred Meyer Corporation, State of Alaska, ETAK Systems, University of Idaho, Bank of America, U. S. Forest Service, PAHIO Resorts, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, RJR Nabisco, SH Architecture, San Francisco Unified School District and American Greetings.

Ron has been a frequent speaker at various conferences and educational forums, including a speech at the White House, the United Nations, and a commencement address at the University of Idaho. He has served on a variety of boards including the San Francisco Arts Education Foundation, the Lopez Community Center Association, and the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Idaho, and completed studies at the Stanford – AEA Executive Institute.