

Richard Parison is the Artistic Director of Hampton Arts, which includes The American Theatre and The Charles Taylor Visual Arts Center. Richard has been a professional theater director and producer for over 25 years. He began his theatre career as Artistic Associate to the Obie-Award winning Gerald Freedman at Great Lakes Theater Festival in Cleveland, Ohio; he later spent over a decade in Philadelphia as Associate Producing Artistic Director at the internationally recognized Walnut Street Theatre and then later as Artistic Director for the Prince Music Theater. As a director, he is a multiple nominee for the Philadelphia Barrymore Award for best director, the Richmond Critics Circle Award for best director and the Sarasota Live Award for Best Production of a Play. For several years before coming to Hampton, Richard was the Executive Director of Richmond Center Stage, now the Dominion Arts Center, central Virginia's premiere performing arts center. Nationally and regionally, he has served on several peer panels for Theatre Communications Group, National Alliance for Music Theatre, the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts. He holds a BFA from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio with an emphasis in Directing and Arts Administration and is a fellow of Leadership Philadelphia and a graduate of the PEW Charitable Trusts Emerging Arts Leadership program.