



THE BRIDGE MUSEUM

I want understand the other. Take me to the other side.

The Bridge Museum: An essential institution for our times Richard Dion

The Bridge Museum intends to create what appears to be the world's first cultural institution that celebrates both structural and conceptual bridges. The Bridge Museum's Bay Area location evokes the Golden Gate and Bay bridges as structural icons and equally nods to San Francisco/Oakland's history of tolerance of new ideas, acting as a forerunner to much of the progressive thought in the United States.

With the current divisions in the United States, Europe and elsewhere, the Bridge Museum hopes to create a safe place where visitors can take steps to not only appreciate the bridges that we cross daily (drawing heavily on STEAM's educational need), but also to challenge visitors to "understand the other", whether among citizens and societies or with colleagues and families, realising that all human relations are indeed exercises in bridge building.

The Bridge Museum has assembled a first rate Advisory Council including:

- Dr. Steinar Bryn - Senior Advisor of the Norwegian-based Nansen Centre for Peace and Dialogue, multiple nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Dr. Fania Davis - Executive Director, Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth
- Donald MacDonald - architect of the Bay Bridge's New East Span, responsible for significant upgrades at the Golden Gate Bridge and an extensive US portfolio
- Luis Rodriguez - poet laureate of Los Angeles, recognised for his activism in social justice.
- TY Lin International (Dennis Jang, Senior Vice President) - Bay Area-based bridge engineering firm.

Richard Dion, the Executive Director the Bridge Museum and a board member would present the Bridge Museum's ethos and provide an update on its activities. Other board members include Directors from the Asian Art Museum (San Francisco), Fileboard and Sony.

Mr. Dion has spent the last 20 years working in culture, development, governance and human rights for the United Nations Development Programme, Shell and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. From 2006-14, he worked extensively with the Savitsky Collection in Uzbekistan, assisting with strategy implementation, institutional capacity and international outreach. A graduate of UCLA, he equally holds MA degrees in Russian Studies (University of London) and Urban Management and Governance (Erasmus University, Rotterdam).