

Biography for Ford Watson Bell, DVM

Ford W. Bell most recently served as president of the Hennepin Health Foundation at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, a position he held from August of 2015 to April of 2018.

From 2007 to 2015, Bell served as president of the American Alliance of Museums, in Washington, DC. AAM was founded in 1906 to represent the entire museum field. Today, AAM has over 30,000 members, including 4,000 museums, zoos, aquaria and public gardens. During his tenure, Bell led the organization through a re-organization and re-branding, resulting in increased membership, a complete re-design of the AAM museum accreditation process and strengthening of its federal advocacy efforts.

From 1995 to 2005, Bell was president and CEO of the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. Prior to coming to the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation, he was clinical assistant professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Minnesota and director of interns at the College's Lewis Hospital for Companion Animals. He is a board-certified veterinary oncologist and continued to teach at the University of Minnesota until 2005.

Bell has served as chairman of the James Ford Bell Foundation, the family foundation started by his grandfather in 1954. He was a trustee of Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut, from 1998 to 2007, and was a trustee of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts from 1998 to 2007, serving as chair of the board from 2003 to 2005. He also led the Minneapolis Institute of Arts' \$103 million capital campaign, completed in 2006. He was a longtime member of the advisory board of the James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota and was a board member of the Associates of the James Ford Bell Library, a support organization for the library at the University of Minnesota that is built around James Ford Bell's collection of rare books, manuscripts, maps and charts covering the period 1400-1800.

Bell currently serves on the boards of directors of the Minnesota Historical Society in Saint Paul, MN and the National Music Museum in Vermilion, SD, and is a trustee of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.