
Profile Dr Ian Griffin



Qualifications

- Ph.D. "Circum-stellar Environments of Late Type Stars", 1991, University College London
- BSc. (First Class Honours) Astronomy, 1987, University College London

Professional Memberships

- Fellow Royal Astronomical Society
- Member International Astronomical Union
- European Collaborative for Science, Technology and Industry (ECSITE)

Community Service

- Chairman of the UK Association of Science and Discovery Centres representing the interests of the 60 centres in the UK. Trustee since 2009
- 2010 /11 evaluator for the government of the Czech Republic, appraising proposals to set up Science Centres in that country.
- Noyce Fellow in 2009/2010
- Oxfordshire Science Festival, Trustee, 2010-
- Venturefest Oxford Board Member 2008-
- Oxfordshire Economic Partnership Board Member 2008-
- Senate Oxford Brookes University 2009-

Other information

- Married, 3 children
- Hobbies include hillwalking, photography, cycling & juggling

Summarised Career Highlights

Chief Executive, The Oxford Trust, Oxford, England (2008 – present)

The Oxford Trust is a charitable foundation whose mission is "to encourage the pursuit of science and enterprise". The Trust works in the fields of education, public engagement and incubation and support of new high technology companies.

Recent achievements include

- Leading the design, master planning and fundraising for and construction of "The Magnet" a major new Cultural Centre for Science in Oxford.
- Developing a new stable business model for the Trust
- Overseeing the creation of a new small "science centre laboratory" called Science Oxford live, where ideas for the new centre are tested on a smaller scale.
- Leading the team which created www.scienceoxfordonline.com a website that was "honourably mentioned" in the 2010 Webby's.

Director, Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI), Manchester, England (2004 – 2008)

MOSI is one of the largest Science Museums in Europe. With an extensive collection of more than a million objects, 17 major galleries and visitor numbers approaching 800,000 per year MOSI is a major tourist attraction whose collection of historic working machines is recognized as being of international significance.

- Managed a staff of 130 people and an annual operating budget of £7m
- Visitor numbers increased from 400,000 to ~750,000 during period
- Led project to improve institutional culture, customer service and achieve world-class status by focusing on the Museum's significant collections and making the Museum renowned as a centre for public engagement with science
- Led a master-planning process which outlined a route for future development of the Museum
- Founded the Manchester Science Festival, which is now one of the largest in the UK

Head, Office of Public Outreach & Director NASA Origins Education Forum Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, Maryland USA (2001-2004)

The Hubble Space Telescope is NASA's iconic astronomical observatory. Ian led the team of artists, astronomers, journalists and web experts responsible for making its research accessible to the public. He also led the public engagement team responsible for coordinating education and outreach from all of NASA's Origin's missions including SOFIA, Chandra, Kepler and Spitzer.

CEO, Auckland Observatory and Planetarium Trust, Auckland, New Zealand (1999-2001)

The Auckland Observatory is a major public observatory, located on One Tree Hill in Auckland. Ian was involved in significantly enhancing the public profile of the observatory especially around the millennium & obtaining grants to fund a new robotic telescope and re-fit the exhibitions.

The International Astronomical Union recognise Ian as the official discoverer of 27 asteroids, from observatories in Florida, Chile and New Zealand.

For more information please see

Personal Website <http://www.ian-griffin.com>
Personal Twitter feed <http://www.twitter.com/iangriffin>