

Richard M. Parison, Jr.
Director of Arts and Culture
Executive Director, Mesa Arts Center

With over three decades of leadership in the arts and culture sector, Richard M. Parison Jr. has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to education, outreach and community engagement. Formerly serving as the Director of Arts and Culture and Artistic Director for the City of Hampton, Virginia, he curated all presenting and producing operations while managing a unique public/private partnership with the Hampton Arts Foundation. Prior to this, he was CEO and Executive Director at Richmond CenterStage (Richmond Performing Arts Center), where he spearheaded strategic fundraising, institutional marketing and regional educational initiatives. With degrees from Miami University (Ohio), Parison boasts an innovative record of presenting, producing and performing arts. His extensive career includes leadership roles at Barrington Stage Company, Prince Theater, Walnut Street Theatre, Great Lakes Theater Festival and Lakeland Community College.