

Virginia A. Manuel

Bio

Virginia Manuel has over twenty five years experience in business and economic development, international trade and community economic development in both government and the private sector.

Most recently, from 2001-2009, as founder of Manuel & Associates, Ms. Manuel provided strategic planning and development services in Maine and Washington D.C. to promote collaboration between Maine cities, businesses, and research institutions and Northern Ireland/Ireland international business, government and research organizations. She also served as an advisor to the Vital Voices Global Partnership, a worldwide women's leadership development organization based in Washington, D.C. and to an Irish-American advisory group at the U.S. Department of State.

Formerly, she served as a Senior Advisor and Special Assistant (1994-2001) in the International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, in Washington, D.C., on commercial initiatives to promote U.S. exports and commercial initiatives to underpin the Northern Ireland peace process. In this role, she worked on a White House, National Security Council, State and Commerce Departments' task force to assist implementation of White House priorities. She also assisted with the promotion of economic development projects along the U.S.-Mexican border.

Prior to this, from 1991-1994 Ms. Manuel founded a marketing and fundraising firm, Diversified Campaign Services, Inc. in Portland that provided counsel to non-profit business organizations and referenda campaigns. She also was a Maine real estate broker with Maine's largest residential real estate company, Mark Stimson & Associates from 1987-1990.

Virginia served as Maine's Director of Business Assistance in the Maine State Development Office from 1981-1987 carrying out programs that marketed Maine communities as investment locations and which supported Maine business retention and expansion.

She is a graduate of the University of Maine with a B.S. degree in Education and Sociology and holds a Graduate Certificate in Marketing and Fundraising Administration from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She attended St. Peter's College, Oxford University, in England to study Renaissance art and history.

Ms. Manuel grew up in Aroostook County on a potato farm and her permanent residence is the family farm in Littleton. She is an avid outdoor enthusiast, movie buff, and international traveler.