



NH Center for
NONPROFITS

2010 Nonprofit Leadership Summit

Guest Interviewer Biography

Virginia Prescott

Host & Producer, "Word of Mouth" on NHPR



Virginia Prescott is host and producer of "Word of Mouth," a new program about new things that is in development at New Hampshire Public Radio. She brings a discerning eye, quick wit and love of high and low culture to the new programs and is thrilled to be on the ground floor of this bold experiment in public radio programming. Virginia joined NHPR after five years producing national programs at WBUR in Boston. Most recently as Editor of Arts, Culture & Ideas for "Here & Now". Virginia grew up in NH, but caught the radio bug while working for WWOZ Radio in New Orleans. She then moved to New York and honed her chops producing and directing beloved journalist Ed Bradley as part of the team behind NPR's Peabody Award-winning "Jazz from Lincoln Center" series. Virginia is a strong

believer in empowering local voices to create informed communities. To that end, she has worked to develop radio stations in southern and West Africa, and trained journalists in post-conflict zones in Sierra Leone and the former Yugoslavia.

Virginia joined WNYC in New York City, the nation's largest public radio station in 1996, when online journalism was a new concept. She helped launch the station's website and was on the core editorial team for outreach projects like the "Radio Rookies" training program for urban youth. She was named Director for all of WNYC's interactive media, and became fascinated by how new broadcast paradigms could involve listeners in creating content. Virginia's curiosity led her to a Loeb Fellowship at Harvard Design School where she studied how new and traditional broadcast media could spark dialogue in urban settings. After the fellowship, she joined WBUR as producer for "On Point," and eventually became part of the crew at "Here & Now".

In addition to her day jobs, Virginia has produced projects and audio installations that incorporate audio artistry and community storytelling. She trained teenagers in radio production to record oral histories from Houston's Third Ward neighborhood for an installation at Project Row Houses. Virginia later produced a sound installation made up of community members telling their stories of growing up near the army Arsenal that operated in Watertown Massachusetts for more than 150 years. The project was funded by the Arsenal Center for the Arts.