



Belief. Change. Possibility. These three ideals provide the foundation for Inside Out and all of our programs. And it's in this spirit that I am pleased to welcome our new Executive Director, Varina Bleil, to the Inside Out family.

Throughout the lengthy interview process, the Board of Directors was impressed by her passion, knowledge of the field, and strategic approach to both our inquiries and vision for the future. Varina is a dynamic and visionary leader, able to take Inside Out to the next level and beyond.

Varina received her Master's in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education's "Arts in Education" program, where she worked closely with the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations. She previously served as the Development Executive at The Help Group and has over a decade of experience as a Teaching Artist with various arts organizations in Los Angeles, supervising theatrical performances for underprivileged teenagers, juvenile offenders, and psychiatric patients.

Varina also brings to Inside Out an extensive background in the film and television industry and during her years in Hollywood she served as a development executive, producer and writer, working with such companies as Warner Bros., Miramax, New Line, and NBC/Universal. Her experience includes Senior Vice President at Weed Road Pictures; staff writer on the television series *Eureka*; and Associate Producer on the film *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*.

Varina is supported by a strong executive staff and Inside Out's programs, events, and operations continue without disruption and with the highest quality. Inside Out's Board of Directors, integrally involved in all aspects of the leadership transition, remains strong, engaged and ready to address the challenges and opportunities of nonprofit operations that come with this time of worldwide economic adjustment.

All of us at Inside Out seek to expand our work in the community to serve young people who too often are neglected or ignored. We strive to help them discover the hidden beauty and richness in themselves and our city, while inspiring them to proactively participate in making their community a better place for everyone. And with Varina's leadership, we know we will succeed.

In service,

Gary Tokumori

Board Chair