

Pete Bird Biographical Information

Pete Bird is senior fellow of The Frist Foundation, a position he assumed in 2022 after serving as CEO since 2002. He has been with the foundation since 1983, serving as senior program officer before being promoted to the top job.

Originally from Indianapolis, Bird holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and did post-graduate study at Columbia University's Graduate School of Business.

In the 1970s, he served as city editor of The Jackson Sun newspaper in West Tennessee before becoming business news editor of the Nashville Banner, where he worked from 1976 to 1981. He then served as senior vice president of Commerce Union Corporation (now Bank of America), where he handled strategic planning and communications, before joining The Frist Foundation.

Bird is a graduate of Leadership Nashville and serves on the boards of the Center for Nonprofit Management, Leadership Nashville and The HCA Healthcare Foundation. He is also treasurer of the Frist Art Museum Foundation.

Within the field of philanthropy, Bird has taken a special interest in public policy. He currently serves on policy-focused committees supporting Philanthropy Southeast, The Philanthropy Roundtable and the Council on Foundations.

Unusually, The Frist Foundation began as a corporate foundation in 1982, then became an independent foundation in 1995 after a change in corporate ownership, then became a family foundation in 2004.

With more than \$500 million in assets, The Frist Foundation is the largest private foundation in Middle Tennessee. The foundation is a place-based grantmaker, awarding more than \$20 million in grants in 2021, the largest of which went to the Frist Art Museum.