

**MARK L. BARBOUR**  
**FOUNDING DIRECTOR AND CURATOR INTERNATIONAL PRINTING MUSEUM**  
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Mark Barbour is the Executive Director & Founding Curator of the International Printing Museum, Carson, California. As one of the founders of the museum in 1988, Mark's vision and passion over the years have been instrumental in establishing the International Printing Museum as one of cultural gems of Southern California and as the leading national museum dedicated to the history of printing. This has resulted in the Printing Museum receiving the distinguished *2023 Institutional Laureate Award* from the American Printing History Association.

Mark continues to be creative in developing a broad base of programs and financial support, helping the museum to continue growing far beyond a warehouse collection of dusty printing industry relics, into a relevant cultural and educational destination for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. The Museum's many educational programs bring to life one of the world's most significant and comprehensive printing collections by actively involving visitors in an accessible, living, working history of the printed word and its continuing impact on our world. Over the years, Mark and his team have worked with over 750,000 students through these programs. His vision has been to use the collections as a springboard for American and world history, civics, great inventions and discoveries, art and literacy.

In 1997, Mark created the innovative *Museum on Wheels* program, a mobile exhibit featuring Ben Franklin's printing shop that has now visited 2,800 schools throughout California and Arizona. In 2011, Mark developed workshops for both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, helping 3,500 scouts earn 8,000 merit badges in graphic arts, paper and book arts, introducing young students to the printing industry often for the first time.

The *Los Angeles Printers Fair* was established in 2008, an annual celebration of printing and the book arts featuring 90+ printers, artists and vendors and attracting 1,500 visitors each year. More recently in 2021, Mark established *The Book Arts Institute* at the Printing Museum, a 4,000 sf teaching lab for the instruction of traditional printing and book arts techniques such as letterpress, papermaking, bookbinding, printmaking and typography.

Since 1988, Mark has also been engaged as a consultant for film and television on the subject of printing, regularly renting the museum's printing presses for film and television. On several occasions he has even appeared on camera operating the old presses. Hundreds of movies and shows feature the museum's collections.

The Printing Industries Association of Southern California awarded Mark their *Pioneer of the Year Award* in 1995, recognizing his innovative work with the museum and efforts to preserve the heritage of the printing industry. In 2008, PIA & GATF gave Mark their *Excellence in Education Award* for his effective and passionate work educating so many students on printing from elementary school to college.

Mark holds a Graphic Communication degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA. During his tenure at Cal Poly, Mark worked as the student curator of the Shakespeare Press Printing Museum at the college, an experience that developed his passion for printing history and for using that history to inspire others. Forty years later, he remains as passionate and dedicated to preserving and advancing Gutenberg's important legacy of printing.