

COLLEEN BELL

Executive Director, California Film Commission

Colleen Bell was appointed executive director of the California Film Commission (CFC) by Governor Gavin Newsom on May 23, 2019.

As Film Commissioner, she oversees governmental efforts to facilitate motion picture, television, commercial and new media production statewide. She works directly with all levels of state and local government to promote California as a production locale and create production-related jobs. In addition to directing the CFC's wide range of services, she is also tasked with educating legislators, production industry decision makers and the public at large about the value of filming in California.



Prior to leading the CFC, Ms. Bell had a distinguished career in entertainment production, business and diplomacy.

She was appointed by President Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Hungary from 2014 - 2017. As Ambassador and Chief of Mission of U.S. Embassy Budapest, Ms. Bell led engagement on military cooperation, law enforcement and economic development between the U.S. and Hungary. She supervised a team of more than 300 while working on initiatives including treaty negotiations, cybersecurity, migration, biotechnology, cultural diplomacy, support for Ukraine and women's issues. For her work as U.S. Ambassador, Ms. Bell was the first woman bestowed the Dr. Iván Völgyes award for business promotion from the American Chamber of Commerce in Hungary. In addition, she received the Order of Merit Middle Cross, which is the second-highest State Order of Hungary.

Prior to her diplomatic service, Ms. Bell was a producer at Bell-Phillip Television Productions -- an award-winning production company responsible for some of the world's most-watched TV programming. Her work, which reached more than 40 million people in more than 100 countries across five continents, frequently earned the industry's most prestigious recognition for creative content, social awareness and public health education. Ms. Bell continues to be regarded as a leading voice for the profound and very positive impact entertainment content can have on the lives of marginalized people across the world.

Devoted to public service, Ms. Bell is a longtime philanthropist and advocate committed to tackling some of the most complex domestic and international policy challenges. Her public service work and her record of strategic and organizational planning have led directly to the implementation of critical initiatives involving natural-resource protection, child-abuse prevention, crime victim counseling and care, public-health awareness and art accessibility.

Ms. Bell speaks frequently on topics related to economic development, security, democracy, cultural diplomacy and women's empowerment. She also supports programs and initiatives by top U.S. International Policy organizations, serving on the boards of the Atlantic Council, Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA), Pacific Council on International Policy, and the Georgetown University Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. She also serves on the board of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA.)

Ms. Bell is a graduate of Sweet Briar College, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy. She also attended St. Andrews University in Scotland, where she studied International Relations. She is married to writer/producer Bradley Bell, with whom she has four children.