

BIO – Ralph D. Weaver

Ralph D. Weaver is Founder and CEO of East West Connection (EWC), a full-service meetings, events and incentive travel company based in Central New Jersey. Integrity and a commitment to excellence has been the foundation of how Ralph has built his career and company starting with his early days as a public relations and marketing executive with companies including Manning Selvage & Lee Public Relations; Bristol Myers Squibb and Johnson & Johnson.

A secret to Ralph's and EWC's success is the notion of reinvention to stay relevant in a changing world. After nearly 30 years, EWC's mission has been a constant; to be a best in class meetings, events and incentive travel company by consistently providing strategic solutions, creativity and superior service that demonstrates care for its clients and their needs and business goals. Over the years, EWC has grown into a team of 75 full-time meeting planning professionals located across the United States. EWC conceptualizes and manages more than 4,000 meetings annually and has a stellar list of clients including Fortune 500 and emerging companies. He is determined, focused, and passionate about EWC and committed to continually going above and beyond in his work for clients. "What keeps us in the game is to "never rest on our laurels and always look ahead for what is next for how we can enhance what we do."

Under his leadership, EWC has been committed to providing funding, in-kind donations and/or pro bono services to a variety of organizations and causes focused on cancer, the arts, education and equality such as The Children's Defense Fund, Make a Wish Foundation, Cancer Care, National Brain Tumor Foundation, American Red Cross, Gilda's Club, NJ Performing Arts Center, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Promise Academy Charter School, and Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation. To date, EWC's support to various organizations over the past 29 years totals \$350,000.

An avid art collector and interior design enthusiast, Ralph continues to purchase works of art during his extensive travels around the world. He desires to make a difference in the world through mentoring young professionals and contributing to education, cancer, and equality. Ralph is a graduate of Boston University and serves on the Board of Trustees for the Cancer Support Community Central New Jersey, and the Crossroads Theatre Company. He is a member of Union Baptist Church of Trenton, NJ.