

**Robert Semper, Ph.D.**

Chief Science Officer and Senior Director of  
Educator Engagement  
Exploratorium



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Rob Semper is associate executive director of the Exploratorium in San Francisco and director of the Public Experience Lab where he is responsible for leading the institution's research and development work in developing science, art and human perception programs for the public using exhibits, programs, media and Internet resources. He is also director of the Institute for Research and Learning which conducts the institution's work in formal and informal professional development of educators. Semper has been the principal investigator (PI) on numerous science education, exhibit, media and research projects including starting the National Science Foundation (NSF)-sponsored Center for Informal Learning and Schools, a research collaboration between the Exploratorium, University of California, Santa Cruz, and King's College, London, which studied the relationship between museums and formal education. He also served as Co-PI on the NSF-funded Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network, a national network of science centers designed to foster engagement of the public with the nanotechnology field.

From 1993-2013, Semper guided the development of the award-winning Exploratorium website that has explored the role of museums in the online world including the development of online field trips to locations of scientific research. Since joining the Exploratorium in 1977, he has led numerous NSF, NASA, Department of Education and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration exhibit development, teacher enhancement and media development projects focused on science education for the public, teachers and students. In 1988 (on leave from the Exploratorium) he was director of the LucasFilm Ltd and Apple Computer cooperative venture for the development of multimedia educational projects. In 1989 he was named *Lecturer on Education and Schumann Fellow* (1989 Spring) Harvard Graduate School of Education. Semper received his Ph.D. in solid state physics from Johns Hopkins University in 1973.