



## Staff Profile

Penny Parsekian, CEO

Penny Parsekian, a founding board member of New London Main Street, served as Executive Director of the organization from 2000 to 2006 and has served as CEO from 2006 to the present.

Prior to taking the position with Main Street, Penny was a free-lance writer of science and history books for the National Geographic Society and other clients. She also wrote features for the New York Times and several college magazines.

Her first career was in marketing, culminating in a position as the director of marketing research for an international consulting firm in New York City owned by Bloomingdale's, Filenes, and a consortium of department stores with outlets worldwide, including the Hudson's Bay Company of Canada and Au Printemps of Paris.

Parsekian attended Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio, where she graduated *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Subsequently, she received a masters degree from Brown University and attended New York University's Masters of Business Administration program.

When she moved to New London in 1995, Parsekian was extensively involved in volunteer work focused on transportation. She co-founded the Trail and Rail Action Coalition (TRAC), a project of the Sierra Club, to promote a regional network of bike and walkways and regional light rail trolleys, instead of expanding highways, to accommodate the area's two casinos. In 1999, the City of New London, in partnership with TRAC and Connecticut College, secured a \$1.25 million federal grant to build the Vista Walkway, the inaugural trail envisioned by TRAC to connect downtown New London with the US Coast Guard Academy and Connecticut College.

Parsekian is the founding chair of the Thames Hilltop Neighborhood Association and was chair of the Association's committee to create a pedestrian-friendly streetscape on the commercial strip on Ocean Avenue immediately south of the Lawrence and Memorial Hospital. She has served on the board of the New London County Historical Society and the Children's Museum of SE CT and is a member of the Rotary Club of New London.