



MEENAKSHI SHARMA

Senior Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer

Meenakshi Sharma serves as Senior Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. In this role, to which she was promoted in October 2022, Sharma leads or co-leads multiple Museum departments, including Education, Visitor Experience, Membership, and Wildlife. As a member of the executive leadership team, she has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the Museum's new strategic plan, which is guiding the organization's activities through the completion of its \$150 million transformation, the largest capital project in the Museum's history. As the Museum reimagines its campus, programs, and accessibility initiatives, Sharma has overseen the execution of integrated programming, partnership alliances, and visitor-engagement strategies that will help redefine the Museum's role for the 21st century.

Prior to joining the Museum in 2018 as Chief Strategy Officer, Sharma served as Assistant Dean of Career and Student Affairs at Case Western Reserve University's Weatherhead School of Management. Her responsibilities included leadership roles in designing and executing corporate outreach and recruiting programs, managing multi-departmental teams and budgets, planning events, and managing vendor relationships. Sharma has been highly regarded as an empathetic, effective partner, exceptionally skilled at collaborating with faculty and staff to provide an excellent holistic experience for students and stakeholders. At the Museum, these attributes have translated into a singular ability to find innovative solutions for improving processes, enhancing guest and client experiences, and achieving tangible results.

Sharma holds an executive MBA from Case Western Reserve University, a master's in program management and community organization from the University of Maryland, and a bachelor's in biology from the University of Delhi. She has earned a Weatherhead School of Management Executive Coaching Certificate and a Women Staff Leadership Development Institute certificate, both from Case Western Reserve University.

In 2023, Sharma was recognized as one of *Smart Business magazine's* Progressive Women honorees. In 2021 Sharma was named one of *Cleveland Magazine's* Cleveland 500, earning a spot on its list of "leaders, doers, visionaries and idea generators who help shape the city." She was also elected to that year's Leadership Cleveland Class, a program that inspires leaders to advance the Northeast Ohio region.

Sharma is a member of the Board of Directors of the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center and a mentor for the College Now and Coffee Connections programs at the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University.

Sharma is married to her high-school best friend, Arindam Basu. They live in Westlake and love to travel abroad.