A native of Dublin, Rhoda Mac Manus's career in arts management has included posts at Project Arts Centre, IMMA and the Crafts Council of Ireland in Dublin. She has also worked at Chapter Arts Centre in Cardiff, Wexford Arts Centre, the Hawk's Well Theatre, Sligo and Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast.

She was the Director of an arts managers' network for several years, and organized Conferences in Derry and Galway which examined comparative arts policy and practice in the Republic, Northern Ireland and the rest of the EU.

Other aspects of her experience involved organizing theatre tours in England and Wales and exhibition curatorship and touring in Ireland, Luxembourg and Spain.

More recently, having graduated in Soc/SocPol, she has worked with the Citizens Information Service and founded an NGO, Adoption Loss-NPNI, which has advised government on legislative and policy reform.