

Women in Business Keynote Speaker



Robin Follman-Otta

Chief Executive Officer



Chief Operating Officer



Chief Operating Officer



Born and raised in Orange County, Robin Follman-Otta is a CEO, wife, mother of two, a retired international operatic soprano, educator and an entrepreneur. Follman-Otta performed as one of the top leading ladies in the operatic industry for 30+ years throughout the world, and is one of the primary leading ladies to come out of Orange County. She was a recipient of the Orange County Business Journal's Women in Business Award in 2016, and was the "Longevity Award" winner for the Business Journal's Family-Owned Business Awards. Additionally, she has received other awards, including "Artist of the Year" from Arts Orange County and "Outstanding Contributions in Education Through the Arts" from the Orange County Department of Education. Deeply committed to education in the arts, she led the Orange County School of the Arts as artistic director; and the Voice Conservatory as director from 2000-2009, where she actively worked to mentor aspiring young artists, create strategic partnerships with leading arts and educational institutions, and to develop long-term educational programs and funding to support the visual and performing arts.

Since retiring from the arts world in 2012, Follman-Otta has led the team at Markall Inc. as CEO, along with its manufacturing arm, RA Industries LLC. Markall Inc. is a privately held, woman- and minority-owned, full-service engineering and fabrication completion center. The company has operated in Santa Ana for three generations, spanning more than 60 years. Markall is one of the top fabrication and repair centers in North America with highly refined experience in machining precision parts using exotic raw materials, including cobalt, nickel, Inconel, beryllium copper, titanium and thermoplastics. Markall serves the aerospace and defense, commercial, energy, entertainment (animatronics), and medical industries, and owns and occupies a 70,000-square-foot campus in Santa Ana that incorporates on-site specialized manufacturing facilities and an international repair center. The company also has a presence in Houston, TX; New Orleans, LA; and Anchorage, AK.

In addition to managing her family's manufacturing companies, she functions as COO for their adventure destination fishing lodge in Alaska, Katmai Lodge, along the famed Alagnak River near the legendary Brooks Falls in the Katmai National Park.

Follman-Otta received her AA degree at Saddleback Jr. College in Mission Viejo, and her BA in psychology from Indiana University, Bloomington. Taking advantage of Orange County's educational resources, Follman-Otta in 2015 earned an Executive MBA degree from Chapman University, and now serves as a Governor on the Chapman University Board of Governors, as well as the Board of Counselors for the Argyros School of Business and Economics at Chapman University. She continues to support the arts community by serving as CEO of the Follman-Young Foundation for the Arts, a 501(c)3 public charity; founder and CEO of the Katmai Lodge Alaska and Markall Inc. Foundation for Disease & Disability Awareness; being an active member of the Segerstrom Center of the Arts support group, Angels of the Arts; as well as acting in an advisory position to Pacific Symphony's Opera Support Task Force.