Barbara Short has worked as a visual art teacher, arts administrator, and an active arts education advocate in Alaska for over 30 years and an artist since childhood. She has taught levels from pre-school through adult, including focusing on special education students. After retiring from Fairbanks, Barbara worked for DEED as a content coach traveling throughout Alaska supporting teachers in the arts. This experience took her into remote communities all over Alaska and helped broaden her knowledge of her home state.

Barbara was founding member of AAEC back in 2003, and presently serves as the Executive Director in a part-time capacity. She thoroughly enjoys this job, especially overseeing Institute development and always including an Alaska Native Cultural element to the arts integration.

Barbara was born in Bellingham Washington and loves to be on or in the water! She is married to Ronan, mother to Renna and Allison, and 'Yaya' to Keenan, Gillian, Jack and Rose.