Adele Simmons is Vice Chairman and Senior Executive of the Chicago based regional planning group, Chicago Metropolis 2020 and President of the Global Philanthropy Partnership. At Chicago Metropolis 2020, Mrs. Simmons has focused on early childhood education, working to align the stakeholders around a common agenda and to mobilize the business community around this agenda.

Mrs. Simmons is leading the region wide centennial marking the 100th anniversary of Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett’s Plan of Chicago. She is also working to promote global giving and to strengthen the infrastructure to assist global donors, and has prepared a report on Midwest strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

From 1989-1999 Mrs. Simmons served as President of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, which gives away approximately $170 million per year, approximately $80 million of which supports international work.

During Mrs. Simmons presidency, the Foundation had offices in Russia, Mexico, India, Brazil and Nigeria, and focused its grant making on population, the environment, peace, international security and the consequences of globalization.

Prior to joining the MacArthur Foundation, Mrs. Simmons was President of Hampshire College, an innovative liberal arts college focusing in interdisciplinary learning, in Amherst, Massachusetts.

She is Co-Chairman of a Task Force to develop a Climate Action Plan for the City of Chicago. Currently she serves on a number of boards including Marsh and McLennan Companies, ShoreBank Corporation, the Field Museum of Chicago, Environmental Defense, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and The Chicago Council on Global Affairs.