



Michael E. Berry is a native Kentuckian and a resident of Louisville. Mike holds a BA in American Studies and from Georgetown College (1983) and is a 1979 graduate of Louisville's Waggener High School.

In December of 2019, Governor Andy Beshear appointed Berry as Secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet where he served until retiring in February 2023. While Secretary, he was a member of the KY State Fair Board (Vice Chairman), KY Artisan Center at Berea (Chairman), KY Horse Park Commission, KY Center for African American Heritage (Chairman) and the KY Horse Racing Commission.

Berry previously served in the Office of Governor Martha Layne Collins as an Administrative Assistant and Executive Assistant to the Secretary of the Cabinet from 1983-1986. He began a thirty-three-year career with the Kentucky Derby Festival in 1986, becoming its President and Chief Executive Officer in 1997. The longest-serving CEO in the history of the organization, Mike retired in October of 2019.

Berry serves, or has served, on the boards of organizations including:

- Board of Directors for the International Festivals and Events Association (2004 Chairman)
- Stage One Family Theatre (2011 Chairman)
- Louisville Theatrical Association (currently Secretary)
- Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau (Commissioner appointed by Mayor Greg Fischer)
- Board of Trustees of the General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star
- Board of Trustees of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels
- Episcopal Church Home (2021-2022 Chairman)
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church Vestry (2011 Senior Warden)
- Team Kentucky Covid-19 Memorial Community Advisory Panel (currently Chairman)
- America's 250 Kentucky Commission

Mike was the 2011 recipient of the Louisville Defender Outstanding Community Service Award. He was inducted into the DeMolay International Hall of Fame (2012), the IFEA Hall of Fame (2008), the Phi Kappa Tau National Fraternity Hall of Fame (2008) and the Waggener High School Hall of Fame (2020). He is a graduate of Leadership Louisville (Class of 1998), a former recipient of Business First of Louisville's "Forty Under 40" designation, a recipient of the Silver Anchor Award from the Waterfront Development Corporation and was awarded the Dan Mangeot Lifetime Achievement Award from the Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau (Louisville Tourism) in 2019.