Donald W. Murphy joined the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center as CEO in February 2007. He is the former deputy director of the National Park Service, where he assisted in managing 390 national park units covering approximately 84 million acres, more than 23,000 employees, and a total budget of more than $2.3 billion. Prior to his work with the NPS, Murphy served for seven years as the director of California State Parks, the nation's largest and most diverse state park system.

Murphy has extensive management experience with museums and cultural and historic sites. He was responsible for security at heavily visited national historic sites, including the Statue of Liberty, Mt. Rushmore and Independence Hall. During his tenure at California State Parks, Murphy managed the world-renowned California State Railroad Museum, the Hearst Castle State Historic Monument, and several other state museums.

Raised in Los Angeles, CA, Murphy earned a BA degree in Biology in 1975 at the University of California, San Diego. Murphy is married to LaRena Romrell Murphy. They have six children, three boys and three girls. Murphy is a published poet and has authored a number of articles. Backpacking, writing, and golf are among his hobbies. He has made regular appearances on CNN, CNBC, CSPAN and MSNBC.