

2022 NASAA Development Committee Bios



Donna Collins, Executive Director, Ohio Arts Council

Donna S. Collins became executive director of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) in 2014. Prior to leading OAC, Collins served as the executive director of the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education (OAAE) since 1998 and as the executive director of the Ohio Citizens for the Arts and Foundation (OCA) since 2001. During her tenure, both the OAAE and OCA were recognized statewide and nationally for their success at increasing services to constituents, creating policy, and generating more funds for the arts.

Collins brought to OAC more than 20 years of experience in leading statewide nonprofit organizations, demonstrating consistent success and solid results that impact policy, education, economic development, and arts and culture. A proven leader in the field of arts education and arts advocacy, she has worked with the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network (KCAEEN) on the Network Leadership Committee and as a consultant to state alliances across the nation. She also served as an Americans for the Arts state captain and a State Arts Action Network chair and member, as well as chair of the Arts Education Council. In addition, Collins is a member of the steering committee of the Cultural Data Project/Ohio. Collins currently serves on NASAA's Development Committee and has also served on the Awards and Dues Task Forces. She has received the Alene Valkanas State Arts Advocacy Award from Americans for the Arts; Distinguished Fellow and Arts Administration Awards by the Ohio Art Education Association; VSA Ohio's Fran Bay Award; executive director recognition from the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network in 2003, 2008, 2011, and 2014; and induction into the Ohio Educational Theatre Association's Hall of Fame. Collins was honored by the Ohio PTA as a life member.



Chris Cathers, Executive Director, Kentucky Arts Council

Chris Cathers was appointed interim executive director of the Kentucky Arts Council in 2017 and became executive director in 2019. He has been with the arts council for 10+ years. As program branch manager, Cathers oversaw community based initiatives, developed the Kentucky Certified Cultural District program and produced Kentucky Crafted: The Market. Additionally, his duties included research; development and implementation of processes, programs and initiatives to promote community building through the arts; integrating and promoting cultural heritage tourism; and marketing of the arts. Prior to joining the Arts Council, Cathers spent three years at Eastern Kentucky University

as program manager of the Kentucky Artisan Heritage Trails program, a nationally recognized cultural heritage tourism project in the Appalachian region of Kentucky. Under his direction, the program garnered numerous awards including the Kentucky Earth Day Award, Center for Information Technology Enterprise's Best Practices in the KY120, and the University Economic Development Association's Award of Excellence in Community Development. He also helped to develop the first-ever geotourism map of Appalachia in partnership with the National Geographic Society. Cathers's background includes Internet

marketing, sales, retail management and college instruction. He holds an M.B.A. in business management from Morehead State University.



Karen Hanan, Executive Director, Washington State Arts Commission

Karen Hanan is a senior executive with 20+ years of success providing leadership and managerial direction to state and regional arts service and presenting organizations. She was appointed executive director of ArtsWA by Gov. Jay Inslee in 2014. As the agency’s head, Hanan’s role is to grow the organization’s capacity, services and potential for positively impacting the arts field, arts in education and the state. Previously, Hanan was executive director of Arts Northwest, the regional service organization for performing arts organizations, arts presenters, artists, agents and associated organizations. During her tenure there, Hanan was the driving force in repositioning the nonprofit for growth, artistic vitality, profitability and a commitment to mission. She achieved this through effective planning, vision, partnership building and operational savvy. She oversaw the doubling of the organization’s membership and its budget. Prior to her tenure with Arts Northwest, Hanan was the founder and executive director of the Juan de Fuca Festival of the Arts. She is a well-respected member of a number of industry organizations and sits on several boards of directors. She enjoys opportunities to be a speaker, panelist or event participant where the focus is an arts-related topic or the creative economy. (Board term: 2020-2022)

Janis Julian, Council Member, Delaware Division of the Arts

Proud to call herself a native Delawarean, Janis Julian is known for being an active supporter of her community and has been a leader in identifying and executing community partnerships for decades. Her philanthropic efforts and strategies have helped numerous non-profits strengthen their mission and attain their goals.

She began her professional career in the banking industry, a business that led her to establishing both valuable personal and corporate relationships. She was identified as a banker who always empathized with her customers and she developed deep connections with them that grew with her as her career did. Understanding the mechanics of a corporate environment gave Janis a deep appreciation for what it takes to execute and manage projects correctly.

In 2001, Janis left the corporate world to accept a position as Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library. The team she led was responsible for generating contributions to support exhibitions, events and programming. Grants and donations from these initiatives were generated from foundations and corporations. Her Winterthur leadership position led her back to the banking world as she was recruited by WSFS Bank to be Senior Vice President and Director of Community Strategy. At WSFS, Janis was the conduit to the Bank’s non-profit partners, she chaired the Corporate Contributions Committee, was on the WSFS Foundation Board, managed all Corporate sponsorships and led all volunteer initiatives for the Bank.

In 2014, Janis decided to launch her own business as an Advancement Advisor and Consultant. Her path in life has given her an inherent love of the non-profit corporate relationship and the expectations of both entities. Through professional and business

coaching, she strives to help both individuals and organizations reach their personal and professional goals. Janis currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Mary Campbell Center, is a member of the Delaware Division of the Arts Council, ArtCo, Delaware, and is a mentor.



Kim Konikow, Executive Director, North Dakota Council on the Arts

Kim Konikow became executive director of the North Dakota Council on the Arts in 2018. She has a varied background in the arts as a presenter, artist manager and administrator. As a consultant through artservices & company, Konikow was engaged in projects that focused on organizational development. Prior work experience includes executive director of The Mesa, an arts and humanities residency center in southern Utah; executive director of Minnesota Dance Alliance; associate director for Art Awareness, a residency and performance center in upstate New York; director of special events at New York's Brooklyn Academy of Music; and conference coordinator at Dance/USA. Konikow has served as adjunct faculty at the annual summer Bates Dance Festival in Lewiston, Maine, for more than 10 years, and as guest faculty in arts administration at Middlebury College, CalArts, the University of Colorado in Boulder, the University of Iowa in Ames and the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. She was an administrative fellow at the National Endowment for the Arts Presenting and Commissioning Program, and was a recipient of a travel and study grant from the Jerome, Dayton Hudson and General Mills Foundations, which she used to travel to Australia and New Zealand to meet with more than 80 artists and arts organizations. Konikow has served extensively as a site visitor and panelist for several regional, state and national organizations. She holds a B.A. in art history and theatre from George Washington University and a dual M.F.A. in arts administration and theatre direction from Brooklyn College/City University of New York.



Omari Rush, Chair, Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs

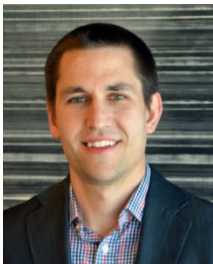
Omari Rush has a continually expanding role of service as an artistic administrator and community leader, in part through his work as executive director of CultureSource, a regional, Detroit based alliance of arts and culture sector nonprofits. Additionally, he has held professional positions in arts presentation and education and he has served in an advisory role for organizations of varying cultural and geographic scopes: as chair of the governor-appointed Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, as a member of national advisory committees for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Association of Performing Arts Professionals, and as chair of the board of directors for the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation. Omari earned degrees in music from the University of Michigan and Florida State University, and though he no longer performs as a clarinetist, Omari enjoys using his voice to cohost an arts focused radio show on WEMU-FM, to recite Robert Frost poems, and to place orders for his favorite fermented foods and drinks.



Nola Ruth, Council Member, Missouri Arts Council

Nola Ruth retired nine years ago after 25 years in arts management. She served for 17 years as the director of the Missouri Association of Community Arts Agencies, a statewide service organization that provides training and consultant services to arts councils including planning, program development and fundraising. Ruth has been an instructor for arts management institutes in South Dakota and Kansas and has consulted for various organizations in Illinois, Kansas and Kentucky. She

began her career in nonprofit arts management as manager of a community radio station with 14 staff and 125 volunteers. Her volunteer experience includes being founding president of the Arts Resources Council, now the Office of Cultural Affairs for the City of Columbia. She was also founding president of the Statewide Community Arts Association, now the State Arts Action Network with Americans for the Arts. In both instances, responsibilities included planning, fundraising and program implementation. Ruth is a board member of Mid-America Arts Alliance.



David Schmitz, Administrator, Iowa Arts Council

David Schmitz became the Iowa Arts Council as administrator, the lead staff role at the Council in 2020. Schmitz has been executive director of the Dubuque Museum of Art since 2015. During his tenure, the museum launched a number of new programs focused on engaging new audiences; raised its profile by forming partnerships with the Smithsonian Institution and Art Bridges, among others; brought major traveling exhibits, including 2019's African American Art in the 20th Century, to Dubuque; and earned

reaccreditation with the American Alliance of Museums. Prior to this role, Schmitz served as a community resources specialist with the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, where he coordinated programs and supported community-led efforts to develop public art and placemaking projects. At the Des Moines Art Center, he managed a growing membership program and led the museum's efforts to engage young professionals. Schmitz has been recognized by Americans for the Arts, the National Young Arts Foundation and the Joan Mitchell Foundation. He currently serves on the boards of the Iowa Cultural Coalition and the Friends of the University of Northern Iowa Gallery of Art. He is a past chair of the City of Dubuque's arts and cultural affairs advisory commission. Schmitz is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa and holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in studio art. He earned a master of arts degree in arts management from Columbia College Chicago, and has attended the Getty Leadership Institute at Claremont Graduate University.

Encarnación M. Teruel, Deputy Director, Illinois Arts Council Agency

(Bio coming soon.)



Julie Vigeland, Former Chair, Oregon Arts Commission

Julie Vigeland is the former chair of the Oregon Arts Commission, having served from 2010-2017. She is a former high school English teacher who has spent the last 40+ years as a civic volunteer in the Portland community. A passionate advocate for the arts, Vigeland brought extensive volunteer experience with arts nonprofits to the Arts Commission. She also provided leadership that helped diversify Arts

Commission appointments and successfully advocated for the reinstatement of the Governor's Arts Awards. Her leadership in the Portland area for arts related organizations includes the former Portland Civic Theater, Regional Arts & Culture Council, Oregon Symphony Foundation, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Friends of the Portland Center for Performing Arts, and Oregon College of Art & Craft. She also has served in various capacities with NASAA, including on the Nominating Committee, the Governance Committee and as cochair of the Chair and Council Member Peer Group in 2016 and 2017. In 1995 Vigeland joined the board of Portland Center Stage, serving as chair for five years and subsequently leading the Capital Campaign for the Gerding Theater at the Armory, which opened in 2006. She now serves as board member emeritus. Vigeland has served as one of three trustees of the Jackson Foundation for the past 29 years. She is past president and current emeritus member of the Multnomah Athletic Foundation and past president of Grantmakers of Oregon and SW Washington. Additionally, she is a past chair of the Portland Parks Board and the Portland Parks Foundation; she now serves as an emeritus member of the Foundation. Vigeland has received many honors, including the Women of Distinction Award for the Arts, the Oregon College of Art and Craft Jo Groves Award, the White Rose Women of Achievement Award, and the Model of Success Award. Vigeland is an American Leadership Forum Fellow. In November 2017, she received the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Oregon and SW Washington. Vigeland received her bachelor of arts degree in English from Portland State College (now University).



Stuart Weiser, Deputy Director, Idaho Commission on the Arts

Stuart Weiser, Deputy Director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts, has a career in the nonprofit arts spanning almost four decades. A musician by training, Mr. Weiser has managed symphony orchestras in Pennsylvania, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Oregon. He has also served on the staff of the New Jersey Symphony, Long Island Philharmonic, and Aspen Music Festival, was Development Director of the Boise Philharmonic in Idaho, and for seven years was conductor of Opera Idaho's summer parks performances.

In addition to his work in the symphony world, Mr. Weiser has also managed the Eichelberger Performing Arts Center, an 800-seat historic theatre in Hanover, PA. He holds a BA from the State University of New York College at Fredonia, and a Master of Science degree in Leadership and Business Ethics from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He has served on the board of the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations, and is a member of the Idaho Nonprofit Center's Public Policy Committee. He has lived in Boise for ten years and is a frequent guest speaker on the topics of fundraising, board development, and the economic impact of the nonprofit arts.