2021 Nominating Committee Report

Michael Donovan (ED-MO), Chair
Patrick Baker (ED-SD), Chris Cathers (ED-KY), Sean Chandler (CM-MT), Joshua Davis-Ruperto (ED-IL), LaVon Bracy Davis (CH-FL), Carla Du Pree (Former CM-MD), Abigail Gómez (Former CH-VA), David Greenham (ED-ME), Tony Manfredi (ED-NV), Gene Meneray (CM-LA), Andrea Noble (ED-AK), Patrick Ralston (ED-AR),
David Slattery (DD-MA), Suzanne Wise (ED-NE)

It is with pleasure that the Nominating Committee presents its recommendations for NASAA's fiscal year 2022 board chair and directors.

For chair, serving one two-year term:

➢ Omari Rush, Former Chair, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs

For three-year terms on the board of directors:

➢ Eduardo Arosemena-Muñoz, Chair, Institute of Puerto Rican Culture*
➢ Alice Bioff, Council Member, Alaska State Council on the Arts
➢ Michael Bobbitt, Executive Director, Mass Cultural Council
➢ Carla Du Pree, Former Council Member, Maryland State Arts Council*
➢ Michael Faison, Executive Director, Idaho Commission on the Arts*
➢ Sue Gens, Executive Director, Minnesota State Arts Board

*These board members will continue their service for a second term.

According to NASAA bylaws, the committee will present these recommendations to the membership for approval during the business meeting on Thursday, October 28, 2021.

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The Nominating Committee reports that during our 90 conversations, state arts agencies expressed strong support for NASAA. Members gave considered, helpful feedback on what they need in 2022 to address efforts related to advocacy; diversity, equity and inclusion; research that demonstrates the value and impact of the arts; and adapting to post-COVID-19 and reopening challenges. This year's committee focused on nominating people of color, people under age 50 and executive directors. As usual, there were many more qualified candidates for board service than there were available seats, which makes the committee's decisions difficult. However, the good news is that there is a strong pipeline of leaders wanting to serve NASAA and the field. Please review the full report in the 2021 Nominating Committee Interview Findings.

On behalf of the membership, the committee acknowledges and thanks departing board members Stephanie Conner (TN), Monica Guzman (Guam) and John Strickland (WV) for their exceptional service to NASAA and to the field.
These board members will continue their terms in 2022:

**Ruben Alvarez, Commissioner**  
Arizona Commission on the Arts  
Phoenix, AZ  
(Board term 2021-2023)

**Karl Blischke, Executive Director**  
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts  
Harrisburg, PA  
(Board term 2020-2022)

**Mary V. Bordeaux, Vice President of Programs and Operations**  
First Peoples Fund  
Rapid City, SD  
(At-large board term 2020-2023)*

**Donna Collins, Executive Director**  
Ohio Arts Council  
Columbus, OH  
(Board term 2018-2023)

**LaVon Bracy Davis, Chair**  
Florida Division of Cultural Affairs  
Orlando, FL  
(Board term 2021-2023)

**María López De León, President & CEO**  
National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures  
San Antonio, TX  
(At-large board term 2018-2022)

**Christian Gaines, Executive Director**  
Western States Arts Federation  
Denver, CO  
(At-large board term 2021-2022)

**Abigail Gómez, Former Chair**  
Virginia Commission for the Arts  
Winchester, VA  
(Board term 2021-2023)

**Karen Hanan, Executive Director**  
Washington State Arts Commission  
Olympia, WA  
(Board term 2020-2022)

**Lisa Hoffman, Executive Director**  
Alliance of Artists Communities  
Providence, RI  
(At-large board term 2018-2022)

**Gene Meneray, Council Member**  
Louisiana State Arts Council  
New Orleans, LA  
(Board term 2020-2022)

**Ivonne Chand O'Neal, Principal**  
Muse Research  
Silver Spring, MD  
(At-large board term 2020-2023)*

**Amber Sharples, Executive Director**  
Oklahoma Arts Council  
Oklahoma City, OK  
(Board term 2017-2022)

**Lorén Spears, Council Member**  
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts  
Providence, RI  
(Board term 2021-2023)

**Julie Vigeland, Former Chair**  
Oregon Arts Commission  
Portland, OR  
(Board term 2018-2023)

**Suzanne Wise, Executive Director**  
Nebraska Arts Council  
Omaha, NE  
(Board term 2015-2022)

*Pending the board’s election of its at-large members, scheduled for October 28, 2021.

The committee thanks everyone who participated in the nominating process this year. Your service to state arts agencies and to NASAA is deeply appreciated.
Nominee Bios

**Alice Bioff** is from Koyuk, Alaska, and has worked since March 2010 in the Community Planning and Development Department of Kawerak, an Alaska Native regional tribal consortium. As the business planning specialist, she is a resource partner connecting small businesses with programs that offer technical assistance in small-business development to the residents of the 16 communities of the Bering Strait region. Bioff has worked for native nonprofit organizations for more than 25 years since attaining her B.A. in rural development from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. In addition to her experience, Bioff is the founder and owner of Naataq Gear and brings with her the experience of owning her own business as an apparel design manufacturer. With her Inupiaq values close at heart, Bioff is a strong supporter of small-business development that supports the diverse economic landscape in the state of Alaska.

**Michael J. Bobbitt**, theatre director, choreographer and playwright, joined the Mass Cultural Council as executive director in February 2021, becoming the highest-ranking cultural official in Massachusetts. Previously he served as the artistic director of the New Repertory Theatre in Watertown, Massachusetts, and of the Adventure Theatre-MTC in Maryland. While in Maryland Bobbitt led the organization to be a respected theatre/training company in the D.C. region, as well as a nationally influential professional Theatre for Young Audiences. Bobbitt trained in nonprofit arts management at Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management, The National Arts Strategies Chief Executive Program, and Cornell University's Diversity and Inclusion Certification Program. He has served as an associate professor of theatre at both the Boston Conservatory at Berklee and Howard University, and has volunteered on numerous nonprofit boards, including Non-Profit Village, Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Leadership Montgomery, Weissberg Foundation, Watertown Public Art Commission and ArtsBoston. In 2021 he was selected to join artEquity’s second cohort of the BIPOC Leadership Circle.

**Sue Gens** is executive director of the Minnesota State Arts Board, a state agency that works to ensure that all Minnesotans have the opportunity to participate in the arts. She joined the agency in 2001, serving as director of communication and government relations, and interim executive director, before becoming executive director in 2008. Before joining the Arts Board, Gens was director of external relations for the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities); and director of development for United Arts, a federated fundraising organization for small and midsized arts organizations in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area. Gens has worked in the Twin Cities nonprofit and public sectors for 30 years; has held management, public relations, marketing or development positions at the Children's Theatre Company, Minnesota Orchestra, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, COMPAS and the Women's Theatre Project; and has served as a volunteer, consultant or board member with a variety of nonprofit organizations. She is a graduate of Minnesota State University Moorhead, with degrees in music and arts administration.