

DANE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

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Bios

Arts in Education

Brenda Baker is Director of Exhibits at Madison Children's Museum, a visual artist and mother of two young boys. She has a B.A. in art from DePauw University and an M.F.A. in painting and sculpture from UW-Madison and has received numerous awards for her work including NEA, Fulbright and DCCAC grants.

John Beutel earned a BS and MS Degree in Choral Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He retired in 2001 after 35 years of teaching public school choral music. The last 26 years he was Choir Director at Stoughton High School. He continues his involvement in music by conducting the Stoughton Chamber Singers, the Stoughton Festival Choir and two church choirs at Christ Lutheran church. He is a member of the Stoughton Opera House Board of Directors, was a founding member of the Stoughton Arts Council, and currently teaches an adult course in Music Appreciation for any community members who love music and would like to learn more about it. John also has been an active member of the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA) having served on its Adult Education Committee, various Festival Music Selection Committees, and chairing the State Middle Level Honors Choir. He currently serves as an adjudicator for WSMA school music festivals and honors auditions at the district and state levels in Wisconsin and Michigan. Extensive travel and gardening are passions that offer non musical enrichment.

Kimberly Foster Branch is a Certified MBTI Practitioner (Myers-Briggs), who has taught pre-school and elementary school in Australia, Los Angeles and New York City for over 15 years. She has worked as a teaching artist for the greater New York City area and Australia. Kimberly has written and produced several children's musicals that have been playing in Manhattan to sold out audiences for over 11 years. Her Off-Broadway shows have matching children's books and a cartoon series. She has written and consulted for children's television and created concepts for many television projects. She is a published children's book author.

Eileen Potts Dawson grew up in a New Jersey suburb of Philadelphia. She received a BFA from Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia, and worked as an illustrator in Philadelphia and Washington D.C. before moving to Madison when her husband was hired as the public intervenor for the Department of Justice. She has illustrated several books for children and was represented by the Perine Gallery on Monroe Street for over 20 years, working in watercolor and pastel. She recently ended 15 years as a member of the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission. She continues to draw and paint while also working full time as a library page at Lincoln Elementary School. She has one son, Matthew, in Madison.

Kelly DeHaven presently is employed by the University of Wisconsin Foundation representing the College of Engineering, however is perhaps best known locally as a vocalist and performer. Kelly has worked in multiple capacities for local arts-related businesses and organizations during much of her career. She also has served as lead vocalist, composer-lyricist and booking agent for music ensembles that have performed throughout the country. Kelly has initiated, performed, and participated in many arts residencies in schools, and has received multiple awards and recognitions as a jazz vocalist. She

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received a bachelor of arts degree in Communication Arts from UW-Madison and presently resides with her husband and daughter in Mt. Horeb.

Blanca Garcia is a Youth Counselor at Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin. She recently moved from Florida where she ran an arts program for at risk youth. Blanca has a BS in Psychology from Eckerd College, where she was Ford Scholar. She has also studied fine arts and political science and has been working with teens for ten years. She has been an Americorps volunteer and has worked and studied in Latin America. Blanca is a native of Chile and is fluent in Spanish.

Kate Jorgensen grew up in Madison, attended undergraduate at UW-Madison with a degree in Elementary Education and African American studies (2003), went to Peace Corps in The Gambia 2003-2005 as a teacher trainer. I have been teaching at Sherman (6/7th grade- Social Studies and Math) since August 2006. I got an M.S. from UW-Madison in 2010 in Social Studies Education/ Curriculum. I have a strong interest in and passion for using multi-media arts to highlight pieces of history and dispel stereotypes of traditionally ignored cultures and groups of people.

Dolly Ledin works to engage scientists in reaching out to the community and to engage youth and adults in the process of science. She has worked as outreach coordinator for the University of Wisconsin –Madison Center for Biology Education for the past 22 years. She has worked as an elementary and middle school teacher, an environmental educator with the Wis. DNR and an adjunct faculty with UW Stevens Point. Most of Dolly's work has focused on the Madison community, but she has also led environmental science courses for teachers in Puerto Rico and spent a year as the environmental education coordinator at the Cloud Forest School in Monteverde, Costa Rica. She has an MS in Land Resources from UW Madison Institute for Environmental Studies (now the Nelson Inst.)

Ken Swift was raised in Pennsylvania and Tanzania and came to WI to attend UW. He spent his junior year in India studying Hindi and collecting children's street and playground games. He returned for two further years in '80 – '82, running the program on which he'd been a student: UW's College Year in India Program in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Ken has taught elementary school for 30 years and continues as a substitute teacher. He also has a Masters in Experiential and Environmental Education. For 47 years Ken has persisted in creating functional, quirky, aesthetic ceramic ware when he has the time. He is also a photographer and, in the old days, led his students in making pin-hole cameras and developing their photos using refrigerator boxes as darkrooms.

Carole Trone was born, raised and education on the East Coast before moving to Madison in 1991, which has been home ever since. Carole worked in a variety of local advertising agencies before attending graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, earning a Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies with a concentration in educational history in 2005. Carole has taught history, English, English language-learners, and educational courses at the grade school, high school, and university levels and has worked in university administration, educational development, and for various non-profit educational organizations. Carole lives in the Tenney Park neighborhood with her husband and three daughters.

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Dance

Frieda Carlsen has always had a great love for dance and Musical Theater and started dancing at the age of three. She recently received a BFA in Dance at UW–Milwaukee with a Minor in Somatic Sciences. Frieda has had the great privilege of performing in guest artist pieces through the University, including *HAPPY*, with choreographer Uri Sands, and *Water Studies*, an Alwin Nikolais piece. I have been in several faculty pieces in Summerdances and Winterdances performed on Mainstage Theater, including pieces by Ed Burgess, Ferne Bronson, Krislyn Worlds, Luc Vanier and Elizabeth Johnson. She has had the pleasure of appearing in Middleton Players Theater *Chicago* as Mona in the "Cellblock Tango" as well as Four Seasons Theatre's *West Side Story*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Evita*, *South Pacific* and recently choreographed and appeared in *RENT*. Frieda hopes to venture further into the dance world and perform professionally.

Kate Corby is a contemporary choreographer, performer and educator. Her work has been seen extensively in the Midwest and in New York, San Francisco, Atlanta, Canada, Mexico, Taiwan and Hungary, where she traveled as a Fulbright Fellow. Her company, Kate Corby & Dancers, was San-Francisco-based from 2001-04 and was reestablished in Madison and Chicago in 2009. Ms. Corby received her MFA from the University of Illinois-Urbana, where she was also an instructor. She has served on the faculties of Beloit College, Columbia College and the Hungarian Dance Academy and is currently an assistant professor in the UW – Madison Dance Department.

Darrell Dieringer is professional ballroom dance performer, competitor, choreographer, and instructor. He runs the Art of Dance ballroom dance school in Madison, WI, teaching students of all ages and skill levels. He began ballroom dancing in college and has been ballroom dancing for nearly twenty years. He is a semi-finalist at numerous professional ballroom dance competitions. He sits on the board of directors for USA Dance-Madison, a local chapter of the national organization promoting amateur social and competitive ballroom dancing. He maintains regular involvement with public high school ballroom dance programs, the Ballroom Dance Association at UW-Madison, and other campus ballroom dance clubs. He participates in celebrity fundraiser dance performances, is a reviewer for the Overture Center's Tommy Awards program, is a bi-annual judge for Humorology at UW-Madison, and is an instructor for UW-Madison's PEOPLE Program and UW Continuing Studies. His unique approach to teaching borrows from other movement disciplines, emphasizing the fluid, comfortable, and expressive creation of movement based on an individual dancer's own strengths.

Heather Good is a graduate of the Bolz Center for Arts Administration and serves as Assistant Director for Development and Outreach at the Wisconsin Union Theater. She teaches contact improvisation and help to organize the Madison Contact Improvisation Jam and the Great Lakes Area Contact Improvisation Enthusiasts Retreat (GLACIER). Heather's dance background also includes extensive study of ballet and modern dance, with over two decades of experience teaching, choreographing, and performing.

Kate Hewson is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and arts administrator. She completed her MFA at UW-Milwaukee in 2009 and is a founding member of the collaborative performance group Dear Heart

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Dance. Kate teaches modern dance through UW Extension and manages the Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program at the UW-Madison Arts Institute.

Betsy Lundgren holds a Master's degree from the Bolz Center for Arts Administration at UW-Madison and a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Communication Arts from UW-Madison. A lifelong dancer, Betsy has performed locally with Wisconsin Dance Ensemble and Jazzworks Dance Company and has taught dance in both studio and outreach settings. Previous professional roles include Director of Marketing for CityDance Ensemble, a Washington, DC-based dance company and education organization; and Communications Specialist for Dance/USA, the national service organization for professional dance. Betsy currently works for Thrive, the economic development partnership for the eight-county Madison Region.

Claudia Melrose, Professor Emerita at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Dance Department, has performed in major cities of Europe, South America, North Africa and the U.S. as a member of the Alwin Nikolais Dance Co., as choreographer/director of the Melrose Motion Company, and as performer/choreographer in the Melrose & Morgan Duo. The recipient of over 40 grants and awards, she has choreographed more than 70 dances. Prof Melrose has also been a perennial advocate of African-based dance and music on the Madison campus. A respected teacher, she prefers to teach the creative aspects of dance, improvisation and composition, because of their transformative value in students' lives and work.

Ann O'Brien has a broad and varied experience of dance artistry, professionalism and technique. She taught ballet for the dance program at UW Madison, UW Extension, the University of Iowa, and private studios. She performed with Ballet Austin, and studied ballet, modern, and jazz at the University of Texas and the University of Iowa, followed by yoga and tai chi in Madison. Additionally she is a CPA and Senior Lecturer in the UW Madison Department of Accounting and Information Systems.

Mary Wheeler has been a life-long student of dance, beginning with ballet growing up in Dallas, Texas, and branching out to modern when she moved to Madison to study zoology at UW. After graduating with honors in dance, Mary stayed in Madison to continue dance and other coursework. After attaining an MSSW in social work and practicing family therapy for a time, life events led Mary to turn her attention to alternative methods of healing. By this time practicing qigong and ecstatic dance as well as African dance forms, she began working with Reiki and studied acupressure and massage with Jin Shin Do master teachers and at East-West Healing Arts Institute. Mary currently practices an integrative style of bodywork through her AcuPresence LLC, and she brings 5Rhythms conscious dance instructors to Madison twice yearly to teach weekend intensives. Her current project is facilitating the introduction of contact dance basics to ecstatic dance groups in Madison.

Local History

Michael Bridgeman is the retired Communications Director for Wisconsin Public Television where his department was responsible for press relations, advertising, video promotion, special events, Web

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services and graphic design. He served on the Madison Arts Commission for ten years, including two as chair, and is a tour docent for the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation.

Mary Clark retired from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in 2007, after more than 25 years there as a librarian. She is currently employed as a software product manager for a library technology company. She holds a BA in history and an MLS in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. A lifelong resident of Dane County, she is currently the president of the Dane County Historical Society.

Erika Janik is a talk show producer at Wisconsin Public Radio, an independent writer and researcher, and the author of three history books, *Madison: A History of a Model City*, *A Short History of Wisconsin*, and *Odd Wisconsin*. She formerly worked as a writer and editor at the Wisconsin Historical Society. She has masters degrees in history and journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

David McMurray holds a BA and MA in History. He helped start an independent school in Crested Butte, Co, where he was a teacher and administrator for many years. More recently, he taught history at Madison Country Day School until taking a position in the bicycle industry.

Jason Tish received a BS in Geography and Anthropology from Minnesota State University-Mankato in 1997 and a MA in Landscape Architecture from UW-Madison in 2008. He has a broad range of professional experience in cultural resources management working as a field archaeologist, documenting historic Department of Defense properties, working with the Wisconsin state office of Historic Preservation and Public History, and as a private historic preservation consultant. He is currently the Executive Director of the Madison trust for Historic Preservation and a Field Representative of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Ann Waidelich holds a BS from Miami University in Ohio and MS from Denver University in Colorado. She served as Librarian with Madison Public Library - Municipal Reference Service 1964 – 1999, Past President, Historic Madison, Inc., and is co-leader East Side History Club, Board member Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society, and volunteer with WI Historical Society doing photo archives indexing of Madison photographs. Ann's specialty is serving as an at-large Madison historian involved in researching, speaking and writing on many topics covering the history of Madison.

Multidisciplinary Arts/Culture

Laurel Bastian is the founder and coordinator of the Writers in Prisons Project, a collective of educators bringing arts and humanities classes to incarcerated men and women. She taught at the University of Wisconsin Madison and Madison College, was a Fellow at the University of Wisconsin's Institute of Creative Writing, and her writing can be found in many print and online journals. She now works in civil rights enforcement and education with the Fair Housing Center of Greater Madison.

Otehlia Cassidy is co-instructor and lead choreographer for WADOMA (West African Dance of Madison). Since her childhood in Yellow Springs, Ohio, Otehlia has been a student of movement,

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beginning with ballet and later moving on to Middle Eastern and modern dance. In 1993, she began intensively pursuing her interest in traditional styles of dance, especially West African. From '93 to '98, she studied with such renowned artists as Eno Washington, Denise Hawthorne Bey, Moustapha Bangoura and Abdoulaye Sylla. In 1998, Otehlia moved to Madison to earn her master's degree in Conservation Biology from the UW-Madison, and also to further her dance career. She began a community dance class and founded Baraka Drum and Dance Ensemble. From 2000-2006, Otehlia taught African dance and choreographed numerous pieces for the UW Dance Program. She continues to teach in the community and to conduct outreach programs in elementary schools throughout the area. Otehlia has traveled numerous times to West Africa, especially Guinea and Mali, studying traditional dances within their cultural context, and continues to study with Guinean and Malian artists in the U.S. Otehlia is also a freelance writer and food blogger.

Sharon Clark Gaskill was raised in a western Illinois town that valued the arts, and she has been, ever since, a patron and strong supporter of creativity. With a degree in history and geography education from the University of Illinois, she embarked on a diverse career that included teaching, customer service, publishing and local government. An equal commitment of her time and energy has been devoted to volunteer efforts and leadership positions in conservation organizations. Now retired, Sharon indulges her appreciation, curiosity and desire to learn from the arts. She and her husband nurture their land and keep a small number of goats in western Dane County.

Darcy Kind is a conservation biologist currently working with the state's Bureau of Endangered Resources. As a biologist she has had the opportunity to work through the state studying rare plants, and also work one-on-one with private landowners and land trusts to help them restore and protect natural communities. She enjoys working with people in Wisconsin because of their strong ties to the land and their innate land ethic, and feels fortunate to be able to see so much of the state's beauty. She was a presenter at the 2007 "Forest Art- Native - Invasive: Perspectives on Art and Nature, Culture and Curating" conference in Madison. She holds a BA in Biology from Lawrence University in Appleton, WI. Darcy is married and resides in Madison. She has a strong appreciation for local arts and culture, and is thankful to be in a community that has so much to offer both those who create, and those who appreciate. She is also involved locally as a board member of the Natural Heritage Land Trust and the Friends of the Arboretum.

Gail Kohl formed her own development consulting company in 2010 after more than 30 years of fundraising experience. She has worked with both local and statewide organizations, i.e., American Players Theatre, Taliesin Preservation Commission, Frank Lloyd Wright Heritage Tourism Program, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy, Big Top Chautauqua, and the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism. Over her career, she has been responsible for major gifts, project and operations funding, membership development and enhancement, strategic partnerships and alliances, event planning and coordination, special projects, proposal and grant writing.

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Anne Lucke is Managing Senior Director of Development at the University of Wisconsin Foundation. She coordinates development efforts on behalf of the UW-Madison College of Letters and Science and its various arts and humanities programs. In previous positions, she has worked at the Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau and Canterbury Booksellers, collaborating with dozens of arts and literary organizations. She is active in several civic groups, including the South Madison Health and Family Center-Harambee.

Jess Main is Operations Manager at the National Center for Media Engagement (NCME), an organization that supports public media stations and other related organizations in their efforts to engage local communities nationwide. Jess' work includes managing NCME's grant programs, project management, research, reporting, metrics and more. Jess holds an M.B.A. from the Bolz Center for Arts Administration at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a B.A. in Communication Arts and Women's Studies from the same institution. She has experience with film and book festivals, performing arts organizations and governmental arts agencies, including volunteer recruitment and management, grant writing/grantmaking, communications, box office and operations management, and evaluation.

Willie Ney is the Executive Director and Founder of the Office of Multicultural Arts Initiatives and the First Wave Spoken Word and Urban Arts Learning Community (the only program of its kind on a university campus in the United States). Prior to initiating OMAI in the fall of 2005, Willie served as the Assistant Director/Outreach Coordinator of the UW-Madison's Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program where he helped to establish a number of important multicultural arts initiatives including the annual Cinefest Film Festival, Sin Fronteras (in conjunction with the Madison Children's Museum), the World Music Festival among other high profile community-focused projects which encompass the UW-Madison's Wisconsin Idea. Among his awards, Willie has received the Martin Luther King Heritage Award, the UW-Madison Bartell Arts Award, the DPI's International Educator of the Year Award and OMAI has been a finalist for the Governor's Arts Award over the past two years (2007 & 2008).

Lucía Nuñez is currently the Director of the City of Madison Department of Civil Rights. She has twenty plus years of experience in the public, non-profit, social service, and education sectors. She has a strong and proven leadership style built on a natural ability to communicate effectively, form strong interpersonal relationships, and employ innovative management techniques. And she has a deep commitment to community and public service as demonstrated throughout her career. Prior to the Department of Civil Rights Director position, she was the Equal Rights Division Administrator for the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD). She also served as the Deputy Secretary for the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. From 1999-2003, she was the Executive Director of Centro Hispano of Dane County. Before moving to Madison, she was the Senior Curriculum Specialist at the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE) at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. She has also been a teacher, a trainer, and a Peace Corps Volunteer. She received her Masters in International Education from the Center for International Education at the

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University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Massachusetts. And received her Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and Hispanic Studies from Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut.

Jennifer Smith is program and publicity director for the “Academy Evenings” series of public talks presented by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. She is also a freelance arts journalist and grant writer. She holds a B.A. from the University of Michigan and an M.A. from the University of Wisconsin, both in art history. Smith received a 2009 “Excellence in Journalism” award from the Milwaukee Press Club and was selected in 2007 as a Fellow for the Arts Journalism Institute in Theater & Musical Theater, an annual program run in Los Angeles by the NEA and the University of Southern California.

Catrina Sparkman is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Madison with Bachelors of Arts in English, Creative Writing, and graduate work in African American Studies, Theatre in Drama also at the University of Wisconsin Madison. She is the owner of a natural soap company, as well as a novelist, playwright and a director. She is the recipient of the William F. Vilas award and has served as a writer, consultant, and workshop presenter, for various local and national organizations from 1998 to the present. Catrina currently lives in Madison with her husband Wesley and their three children.

Jacob Stockinger was an arts writer, critic and editor at The Capital Times newspaper from 1981 to 2008. He has also taught journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison since 1983. A prize-winning photographer and avid amateur classical pianist, he also holds a doctorate in French literature from the UW-Madison.

Music

Bessie Cherry is the owner and booking manager of Madison's Project Lodge, an entirely volunteer-powered art space and music venue presenting dozens of art shows and over a hundred concerts and special events each year. She is also executive director, co-founder, and co-producer of Madison's Forward Music Festival, which aims to highlight Madison as a hub of the Midwestern music scene, to showcase Midwestern talent alongside prominent national acts, and to appeal to a wide demographic of fans and performers. Bessie grew up in rural western Wisconsin. In the fall of 1996, at 16, she moved to Great Barrington, MA to attend Bard College at Simon's Rock, where she received a BA with a double concentration in Creative Writing and Gender Studies. Bessie spent a decade on the East Coast, during which she acquired a voracious interest in music booking and promotions through her work at a local venue. Upon moving to Madison in '06, she spent nearly two years doing booking and promotions for Café Montmartre, giving local bands a space to play while shaking up the local scene with a diverse roster of national and international acts.

Scott Eckel has served as Director of Bands at East High School in Madison since 1989. Before that he taught at the Oconomowoc, Weston, and DeSoto School Districts. Scott has received Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral degrees from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Scott also serves as an administrative assistant for the University of Wisconsin - Madison Summer Music Clinic and as a

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cooperating teacher for the University Teacher Education program. Scott lives in Madison with his wife and two children.

Todd Hammes is a singular individual. Through his music – a fascinating, eclectic blend of classical, world and improvisational styles – Todd presents to the world his own unique inner vision of sound and music. Todd's work includes performances both domestically and abroad, extensive musical composition, teaching and outreach programs to groups large and small. He has trained with some of the world's leading percussionists and is a life-long student of the percussive arts. In 2005, Todd was awarded a prestigious McKnight Visiting Composer Residency from the American Composer's Forum, which allowed him the opportunity to make music with people in assisted living situations. Todd has been studying Hindustani drumming with the great Pandit Sharda Sahai since 1993 and became his *ganda-band* disciple in 1998. Todd holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Arizona (1992) and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin–Madison (2010).

Amanda Horn holds graduate degrees in both piano performance and music theory from Penn State University. She is currently a University Fellow and doctoral candidate in piano performance and pedagogy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studies piano with Christopher Taylor and pedagogy with Jessica Johnson. Recent performance highlights include a 2010 recital tour as pianist of Madison-based *Duo Mendota* and a 2008 solo performance at Carnegie Hall in the annual Adamant Music School showcase recital. In addition to her performing career, Amanda is also a sought-after piano instructor and adjudicator in the Madison area.

Joan Klaski holds a Bachelor's degree in Music (piano) from Washington University in St. Louis, and a Master of Business Administration, in finance, from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Joan performed and taught in the Washington, D.C. area before returning for her MBA. Since then, she has worked in production finance at WETA-TV/FM in Washington, DC; moved to Madison where she served for five years as Associate Director of the Madison Community Foundation; and currently is Director of Finance and Administration at Wisconsin Public Television.

Louka Patenaude is most widely known as one of the most experienced guitarists in the Madison area. He is a performer, songwriter, producer in his groups, the Fingers and The Optimistic as well as guitarist for local mainstays Ben Sidran, Natty Nation and many others. His jazz group, the New Breed Quartet has hosted Madison's longest running jazz jam session since 2001. He has taught countless students over the last 12 years in his studio as well as, most recently, for Madison Music Makers which provides music lessons and instruments for Madison's low income children.

Tom Powell is a classically trained composer. He works primarily in the electronic medium with samplers, synthesizers, and computer-based sound production. Tom composes mainly for contemporary dance and performance art, but has written much chamber music for traditional instruments. He received his doctorate in music composition from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a masters degree in Arts Education and Cultural Studies from the University of Warwick, in Coventry, England, and a masters degree in Music Composition from the University of Surrey, in

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Guildford, England. In the political realm, Tom has served elected terms on the Madison Common Council and the Dane County Board including membership on the Cultural Affairs Commission.

Stephanie Rearick is a musician, small business co-owner (Mother Fool's Coffeeshouse), founder and Director of Dane County TimeBank and Project Coordinator of Time For the World, an international project promoting timebanking and other kinds of mutual credit as means to build healthy and inclusive community economies from the grassroots up. Rearick has a bachelor's degree from the Interdisciplinary Studies program at Miami University and has served on Madison's Alcohol License Review Committee, including two years as Chair (2007-2009).

Veronica Rueckert is the host of the Friday morning call-in program "The Veronica Rueckert Show" on Wisconsin Public Radio. She's also a longtime producer there on the program "To the Best of Our Knowledge," distributed nationally by PRI - Public Radio International. Along with the staff on TTBOOK, Veronica won a Peabody Award for the show in 2005. A writer at heart, her essays have run nationally on the former NPR show "Day to Day" and on "To the Best of Our Knowledge" and her arts reviews run regularly in the "Wisconsin State Journal."

Randal Swiggum is Education Conductor for the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, and is also an associate conductor of The Florida Orchestra, conducting their 20 education concerts each season. A resident of Madison, he conducts Britten and Holst, the top choirs in the Madison Boychoir (MYC) and has served as music director for the Madison Repertory Theatre and Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. He is a frequent guest conductor of both professional and youth orchestras and choirs around the U.S., and in Europe and Asia. He has served on the boards of the League of American Orchestras (Youth Orchestra Division) and the Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education, and is a Ph.D. candidate in musicology at UW-Madison.

Nick Venturella is a professional musician, artist, author and marketer. With his art degree from Edgewood College, and strong writing skills, Venturella embarked on a marketing profession while continuing his music pursuits as a folk/pop, singer/songwriter – think John Mayer meets The BoDeans. While Venturella primarily performs on college campuses, he has performed music from small to large venues including, the world's largest music festival, Summerfest. He authored, *The Local Music Journey*, a book of resources and advice from Venturella and other music professionals encouraging readers to achieve their music career goals. Venturella speaks to audiences about creativity and entrepreneurship as a means to achieve one's life goals.

Theater

Laura Blegen is a student at the Bolz Center for Arts Administration within the UW-Madison school of business. Prior to entering that program, she was working in Chicago, first as a theatrical stage manager and director and later as the Managing Director of Stage Left Theatre. She received her bachelor's degree from Lawrence University in Appleton, where she studied voice performance, acting and stage management.

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Carol Cohen is the Grants Manager at Wisconsin Public Television. Prior to that, she served as Associate Academic Dean at Edgewood College where she also taught English and drama. In the past, she did freelance writing for the Madison Repertory Theatre and was the director of a college theatre in upstate New York. She holds a Ph.D. in Theatre and Drama from University of Wisconsin—Madison.

Michele Gerard Good made her first venture into the role of director/producer with *Portraits & On Tidy Endings*, a benefit for the Rodney Scheel House which was produced at Kanopy Dance in 1992. She also taught acting classes for CTM's Summer Theatre Workshop and served as Director of Kanopy Dance's Multicultural Dance/Theater Summer Workshop. Michele served as Artistic Director for the Campanile Center for the Arts in Minocqua, Wisconsin – a non-profit performing arts center, producing and directing five full scale productions and two studio/cabaret productions per year, as well as teaching and directing a three-week children's theatre workshop. Michele has written several plays which have been produced in Chicago, northern Wisconsin and London, England. Michele holds a BA from Ripon College. She has also trained in acting and directing at the Actors' Studio in London, England and improvisational comedy performance and writing at the Second City in Chicago, Illinois. She is currently Artistic Director of the Laboratory Theatre. In her spare time, Michele is employed by Wisconsin Public Radio as Show Manager for *Michael Feldman's Whad'Ya Know*, storyteller for *Chapter A Day* and an on-air announcer.

Deborah Hearst earned a BA in both Theatre Arts and Political Science from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. She then received a certificate of acting from the British American Drama Academy in Oxford, England. Working as a professional actor in Chicago for seven years, she was awarded a Joseph Jefferson Citation in 2007 for her work in the midwest premiere of *Fat Pig*, by Neil LaBute. In 2009, she moved to Madison with her husband who is currently earning his MFA in acting from University of Wisconsin. She has been working or volunteering with Arts Wisconsin since 2010.

Greg Lawless is Agricultural Innovation Center Director at the University of Wisconsin-Extension and Executive Director of Dane Buy Local. He is also a playwright and video producer. His comic-history play, *The Queen of Janesville*, was a Finalist in the inaugural Wisconsin Wrights New Play Project, sponsored by University Theatre and the Madison Rep. His farce, *Campus Affairs*, appeared on Madison's TAPIT/new works stage in 2009.

Shana Lewis is a shareholder with Davis & Kuelthau, s.c. As a member of the firm's School and Labor Teams, she provides legal representation to public and private employers in the areas of labor and employment law. Shana is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. She served on the Board of Directors for the Madison Repertory Theatre during its final years and supports the University of Wisconsin Theatre and Drama Department through the Friends of University Theatre. Shana is the Secretary for the Greenridge Pier & Parks Association, Inc.

Chuck Mitchell has been Scenery Shop Supervisor for the University of Wisconsin Theatre Department since 1981 and is a proud member of IATSE, the stagehands union. Prior to his current position he

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toured nationally with dance, opera and musical productions. He is currently involved in a project to renovate Madison East High School's Margaret Williams Theatre. His hobbies include biking, skiing, hiking, woodworking and attending theatre productions.

David Pausch has worked and/or performed with a variety of arts organizations, including Li Chiao-Ping Dance, Madison Repertory Theatre, Delaware Theatre Company, Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival, Madison Opera, Mercury Players and Strollers Theatre. He holds an MA in Arts Administration from the Bolz Center for Arts Administration at the Wisconsin School of Business. He is one of the co-founders of the Bricks Theatre in Madison, and is also the donor relations director for the River Alliance of Wisconsin..

Autumn Shiley holds a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance from University of Virginia. She has trained with SITI company members, studied in Oxford with the British American Dramatic Academy, and has performed internationally. She has developed curriculum and taught classes at MATC. She is an artistic associate of Chicago's Sideshow Theatre Company and is the founder of Broom Street Theater's Institute of Experimental Theatre Training. She continues to devise original work and is dedicated to ongoing performance training.

Vicki Stewart earned a bachelors degree in Theater and Secondary Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She performed with University Theater and several community theaters until 1969 when she, with a group of like-minded actors founded Madison Repertory Theatre. For 13 years, she served in multiple capacities on its board of directors including a stint as board president. In 1982, she joined the theater's staff as marketing director and then director of development. Madison Repertory Theatre became a professional equity company in 1988 and Vicki became its managing director in 1990, a position she held until her retirement in 1999. She was a member of the Madison City Arts Commission and has continued to volunteer for civic organizations such as Downtown Rotary Club.

Visual Arts

Theresa Abel is a painter and the owner/director of the Artisan Gallery, a fine art and fine craft gallery, located in Paoli, WI. She received her BFA from the University of WI, Madison in 1991 and shortly after became one of the founding members of the Madison arts collective, ArtBite, which exhibited in and around the Madison area from 1994-2008. She has served as juror for numerous art fairs and art centers and served on the artist advisory board for the Lakefront festival of the arts, Milwaukee, WI. She also owns the Creamery Café located within the Artisan Gallery and serves on the Madison Originals Board of Directors.

Meghan Blake-Horst is the Owner of Absolutely Art, a community-based art gallery located on Madison's Near East Side. A native Madisonian, Meghan is deeply connected to the community and was raised in the local theater and music scene. She holds a BS in Kinesiology from UW-Eau Claire. The diversity between her education, upbringing and connections to the local art scene has been an

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important combination for operating an art gallery focusing on Madison's talented arts community. Over the past six years Meghan has connected with many nonprofits building strong connections and has sat on the selection committee for the Overture Community Galleries in 2009, judged the Lake Mills Art Fair in 2010 & 2011 and juried the MMoCA Holiday Art Fair in 2011. Absolutely Art has won two National Awards from NICHE Magazine; "Best Promotional Event" for their annual Re-Art SWAP in 2010 and in 2011 was named "Best Local or Regional Craft Gallery in North America". Two industry honors for their commitment to artists and the community. Meghan is active community organizer, and strives to be a vital connection to and for the arts.

Pat Dillon is a painter and the former owner of Bungalow 1227, an east side art gallery that represented local, regional and international artists. Her work is represented in Madison by Milward Farrell and private shows throughout Wisconsin. She's also a journalist and author of two books on environmentally and socially responsible travel recently published by the University of Wisconsin Press. Pat holds a B.A. in Journalism from UW-Milwaukee and a B.A. in English from U.W. Whitewater.

Holly Jorgenson, a small town Wisconsin native, has been drawing and painting for the last 30 years. Her most recent shows included pastel drawings which reflect her life-long commitments to racial justice, developing and improving committed relationships, and personal change. Her vocation as an individual and couples therapist in the Madison area is closely linked to her expression as a local visual artist. She has her BA in Art from UW-Eau Claire, and an MS in Counseling from UW-Whitewater.

Jennifer A. Lapham is the founder and owner of Midwest Clay Project, a studio and gallery committed to bringing awareness and appreciation of the ceramic arts to the Madison community. She holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and has worked as an artist and arts educator for over twenty years. Following graduate school, Lapham taught in academia while exhibiting her work nationally, curating numerous projects and occasionally writing for art publications. Her positions include having served as visiting faculty in art at Allegheny College, Meadville, PA, and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. From 2000-2007, Lapham served as Gallery Director and Adjunct Faculty in Art at Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL, before leaving the position in 2007 when she and her family moved to Madison.

Peter Lundberg is an oil painter, jazz pianist, appraiser, art collector, and owner/director of the Janus Galleries in Madison, serves on numerous boards as an artist, arts advocate, fundraiser and financial supporter. He writes a monthly arts column in *Brava* magazine and is a mainstay volunteer at Hospicare, Inc.

Amy Newell received her BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and her MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She currently works as curator for Tandem Press, a fine art print publishing company affiliated with the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jacob A. Pfeiffer is an artist who hails from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996 with highest honors. His latest work consists of tightly rendered still lifes

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in oil, containing a wide variety of objects. Purposefully provocative compositions are constructed with meticulous and time consuming craftsmanship. Pfeiffer designs his spaces with a deceptive simplicity that resonates with a sense of volume, drama, power and above all, humor. The resulting work has found a wide array of admiring collectors and has also garnered the attention of the national art press, being featured in Art News, The Artist's Magazine and gracing the covers of American Artist, Southwest Art, American Arts Quarterly and American Art Collector. His inclusion in several high profile museum shows attest to the status of this successful young artist. Jacob's paintings are represented by the **John Pence Gallery** in San Francisco, CA, The **Meyer East Gallery** in Santa Fe and **Tree's Place** in Orleans, MA. Jacob lives in Madison, WI with his wife and two children.

Jon Sorenson is a Director of Development with the University of Wisconsin Foundation, focusing mainly on the arts including the Chazen Museum, School of Music, Art History, and Theater and Drama. He did his undergraduate work and graduate work in Art History (UW-Madison & Williams College) and most of his career has been spent working in the commercial art world in New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Jon returned 3 years ago to Madison from Christchurch, New Zealand where he was Manager of Education and Public Programs at the Canterbury Museum.

David Wells has pursued interdisciplinary interests as an exhibiting artist, consultant, curator and administrator for over 30 years. He was Executive Director of Edenfred, the creative residency program of the Terry Family Foundation, in Madison, from 2004 through 2010. In this capacity he developed the arts residency programs, a statewide forum for arts curators, and curated visual art exhibits for Edenfred and for Sundance Cinemas Madison. Through David Wells Creative Services LLC, he continues his work with the Terry Family Foundation and as an independent curator, consultant and artist. He is currently a member of the Steering Committee for the City of Madison Cultural Plan and the Advisor Committee of the James Watrous Gallery of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences Arts & Letters. He was formerly the director of the UW Design Gallery and has curated exhibitions for the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Dubuque Museum of Art, and other college, civic and commercial galleries in the Upper Midwest and Los Angeles regions. He has previously served on numerous regional jury panels.