

Missouri Association of Community Arts Agencies

Arts Agency Successes: Tips, Testimonials and Tools

2019 Professional Development Conference Presenters

Michael Donovan

Executive Director, Missouri Arts Council

Michael Donovan, Executive Director of the Missouri Arts Council, is responsible for developing a strategic and effective organization, and supporting a staff of 11 professionals. His focus includes expanded presence statewide, proportional and equitable grant funding, and building partnerships and creative communities. Prior to joining the state arts council, he was the editor of a publication on fundraising events for nonprofits, directed a cultural center in Louisiana, and worked for a united arts fund in Ohio. Donovan has been a professional in the arts for almost 40 years, serving on many cultural and community boards including the Mid-America Arts Alliance, and grant panels for the NEA and several states and communities. VSA Arts recognized his commitment to accessibility and artists with disabilities with their Award of Excellence. He received his Masters in Community Arts Management from the University of Illinois, Springfield and a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from the University of Missouri – Kansas City.

- **preferred contact info:** michael.donovan@ded.mo.gov; (314)-340-4740
- **conference presentation:** Monday, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. – The State of the Arts in Missouri

Phil Dunlap

Board President, Missouri Citizens for the Arts

Born in Mason City, IA, Phil Dunlap moved to the metro area in 2000 to study jazz at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. While there, he studied with pianist Reggie Thomas until he graduated in May of 2007, earning bachelor's degrees in jazz performance as well as music theory/composition, and a master's degree in jazz performance. He was hired by Jazz St. Louis to head their growing portfolio of education programs in April 2007. Outside of the office, Phil remains active as a teacher, lecturer and performer. In 2010, he became an Adjunct Professor of Music at the University of Missouri – St. Louis. He has given pre-concert talks for the St. Louis Symphony, presented clinics at MMEA and MBA, and is the host and writer for Building Blocks of Jazz, an education segment that appears as part of HEC-TV's I Love Jazz. In 2009, he traveled to Kabul, Afghanistan with American Voices as an artist in residence at Kabul University and the National Institute for Music. As a performer, Phil has presented numerous concerts in St. Louis, performing alongside musicians such as Terell Stafford, Houston Person, Jimmy Cobb, and Christine Brewer at venues such as the Sheldon Concert Hall, Powell Hall and Jazz at the Bistro. Most recently, Phil received the Certificate of Merit Award from St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association and was named "30 Under 30" by the St. Louis Business Journal.

- **preferred contact info:** for information about Missouri Citizens for the Arts (MCA), contact Kyna Iman, MCA's legislative consultant, kynaiman@earthlink.net
- **conference presentation:** Monday, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. – Arts Advocacy and the State of the Arts in Missouri

Teresa Fankhauser

Executive Director, Allied Arts Council

Teresa Fankhauser, Executive Director, joined the Allied Arts Council in 2005. She works with local arts agencies, Missouri Western State University, the City of St. Joseph and the St. Joseph School District to foster the arts in St. Joseph. Her position includes working with local, state, and national organizations and agencies to effect positive changes for the arts. She is a past president of Missouri Citizens for the Arts, past President of the Missouri Association of

Community Arts Agencies, and has served as a Missouri Arts Council panelist and Downtown Rotary board member. She currently serves on the Community Improvement District board and is a committee member of the Big Muddy Mini Makers Faire. She is a member of the Americans for the Arts attending their professional development conferences. Prior to joining the Allied Arts Council, she served as Managing Director of the Performing Arts Association of St. Joseph, was artistic director and co-owner with husband Erich Uhlhorn of the Ice House Dinner Theatre, a Financial Planner for IDS Financial Services and a speech, debate and theatre teacher. She has a B.S. in Education with a speech/theatre emphasis from Missouri Western State University.

- **preferred contact info:** Teresa.fankhauser@stjoearts.org
- **conference presentation:** Tuesday, 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. – How Did You?...Seasoned Arts Administrators Share How They Tackled Real-Deal Issues

Leslie Forrester

Executive Director, Springfield Regional Arts Council

Leslie Forrester is the Executive Director of the Springfield Regional Arts Council where she oversees every aspect of running the non-profit organization including budgeting, facility management, and programming. She serves on several community teams including the Community Focus Report and the Any Given Child committees. Leslie is a board member for Missouri Citizens for the Arts and the Missouri Association for Community Arts Agencies. She was named 40 Under 40 by the Springfield Business Journal in 2015 and is a member of Leadership Springfield Class 30. Leslie also teaches courses in Art History, Art Appreciation, Arts Administration, and Cultural Policy at OTC and Drury. Prior to her appointment in 2013, Leslie served for two years as a Program Specialist for the Missouri Arts Council in St. Louis. Her responsibilities included managing the programs for community arts and touring as well as traveling around the state to support arts organizations both large and small. Leslie holds a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Arts Administration from Southern Utah University, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Arts Management from Culver-Stockton College.

- **preferred contact info.:** lesliel@springfieldarts.org; 417-862-2787
- **conference presentation:** Monday, 1:45 to 3:45 p.m. – Marketing and Audience Development: Ways to Attract New Groups

Michael Gaines

Executive Director, Missouri Association of Community Arts Agencies & Hannibal Arts Council

Michael Gaines has been the Executive Director of the Hannibal Arts Council since 1993 and the Executive Director of the Missouri Association of Community Arts Agencies since 2005. Having two leadership roles in two different organizations simultaneously is a challenge and a joy. In addition to his organizational leadership responsibilities, Michael also serves on the board of the Missouri Artisans Association/Best of Missouri Hands, coordinates their BOMH at the Missouri Governor's Mansion project and serves locally on the board of the Hannibal Concert Association. In his limited free time, Michael is an avid art collector, art event attendee and accidental social worker.

- **preferred contact info:** michaelg@hannibalarts.com; 573-221-4853; MACAA/HAC, P.O. Box 1202, Hannibal, MO 63401
- **conference presentations:** Monday, 10:30 a.m. to noon – welcome and introductions, Updates from Statewide Partners & Leaders; and Tuesday, 10:30-11:00 a.m. – How Did You?...Seasoned Arts Administrators Share How They Tackled Real-Deal Issues

Sue Greenberg

Executive Director, St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts

Sue Greenberg joined VLAA in 1986. During the summer, she is the company manager at The Muny. Sue also teaches legal issues in the arts for Webster University's Arts Leadership graduate program. She is a graduate of

Washington University, where she majored in Art History and Urban Studies. Sue received the Arts and Education Council Champion for the Arts award in 2019, a St. Louis Bar Foundation Spirit of Justice Award in 2017, a Kick-Ass Award in 2012 and a St. Louis Visionary Award in 2008.

- **preferred contact info:** vlaa@stlrac.org; 314-863-6930; STLVAAs, 6128 Delmar St. Louis, MO 63112
- **conference presentation:** Monday, 1:45 to 3:45 p.m. – 10 Financial Mistakes Nonprofits Make

Dr. Lisa Higgins

Director, Missouri Folk Arts Program

Lisa L. Higgins directs the Missouri Folk Arts Program, Columbia, Missouri (1999-present)—a joint program of the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, and the Museum of Art and Archaeology at the University of Missouri. Education and Accomplishments: PhD English (Folklore & Rhetoric), University of Missouri (2008); MA English, Arkansas State University (1988); BA English, Arkansas State University (1987). American Folklore Society member (1992-present). Previous public programs positions: Program manager, Southern Arts Federation (1997-1999); Intern and GRA, Missouri Folk Arts Program (1994-1996). Graduate Internship Instructor, University of Missouri (2000-present). Previous teaching positions (full-time, part-time, adjunct): Georgia State University and Cobb County (GA) Community College (1997-98); University of Missouri (1990-97); Stephens College (1996); Arkansas State University (1988-90); and Mississippi County (AR) Community College (1989). Publications: co-authored chapter with Susan Eleuterio in *Through the Schoolhouse Door: Folklore, Community, Curriculum*, (2011); various book reviews co-authored with Teresa Hollingsworth (*Western Folklore*); *Encyclopedia of Women's Folklore and Folklife* entries (2008). Service to the field: *Journal of American Folklore* Exhibits and Events Review Editor (2010-present); AFS section co-convener, Folklore and Education (2010-2012); AFS nominating committee (2004-2005); National Assembly of State Arts Agencies' Folk Arts Planning Committee (ongoing. Co-chair, 2013); and University of Missouri Student Folklore Society, Faculty Adviser (2012-present).

- **preferred contact info:** higginsLL@missouri.edu; 573-882-6296
- **conference presentation:** Monday, 11:00 a.m. to noon – Updates from Statewide Partners & Leaders

Julie Hale

Program Specialist for Arts Education, Missouri Folk Arts Program

In 1999 Julie began working for the Missouri Arts Council as the Community Arts Program Specialist. In 2001 she became Arts Education Program Specialist managing grants and supporting arts education through networks and collaboration. She enjoys working with Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education, and many not for profit organizations to support Missouri's 540 school districts. She sees tremendous opportunity for MACAA organizations to build relationships with schools in their communities.

- **preferred contact info:** julie.hale@ded.mo.gov; (314)-340-6853
- **conference presentation:** Monday, 11:00 a.m. to noon – Updates from Statewide Partners & Leaders

Jessica Spangler Macy

Senior Associate, New Chapter Coaching

Jessica Macy has spent 20 years working in nonprofits large and small, local and national. Not only has she led organizations as an executive director but also as a board member. Now as a consultant focusing on nonprofit organizations, she leverages her knowledge ranging from staff and board development to fundraising and marketing, to overall operations to help create lasting positive changes for her clients. Jessica is a board member of Family Health Center in Columbia, past president of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce - Women's Network and a charter member and President of the Columbia Evening Rotary Club.

- **preferred contact info:** jessica@newchaptercoach.com; 573-228-9600; New Chapter Coaching, 601 W. Nifong Blvd., Suite 1D, Columbia, MO 65203
- **conference presentation:** Monday, 1:45 to 3:45 p.m. – Fighting the Fundraising Fear: How to Make the Ask and Create a Donor List

Dr. Gail Humphries Mardirosian

Dean, Stephens College School of Creative and Performing Arts; Fellow, College of Fellows of the American Theater; Fulbright Scholar

Dr. Gail Humphries Mardirosian is in her fifth year as dean at Stephens College. Last fall, she was pleased to assume the expanded role as Dean of the School of Creative and Performing Arts. At Okoboji Summer Theatre (OST), she recently directed *The Miracle Worker*, and in the past also directed *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *On Golden Pond* at OST. On campus, she has directed *When We Were Young and Unafraid*, *Cabaret*, a staged reading of the new musical *The Fourth Estate* and the original production of *Traces in the Wind*, which also toured to Washington, D.C. and Phoenix, Arizona. The project is chronicled in the book "The Courage to Fight Violence Against Women." In addition to holding her Ph.D. and M.A. from American University in Washington, D.C., Mardirosian also serves as professor emerita at American. Mardirosian's broad experience encompasses academic administration, program development and fundraising and the direction of over 170 productions, including drama, musical theatre, children's theatre, the classics and new works. She has taught and directed in countries such as Greece, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden and the Czech Republic, where she was a Fulbright Senior Scholar teaching at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. She is also a recipient of the Likhachev/Yeltsin Cultural Fellowship at the St. Petersburg Performing Arts Academy in Russia. Mardirosian has won several outstanding teaching, faculty and directing awards, and has published articles in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Teaching Artist Journal* and *Current Issues in Education*. In 2013, she was invested into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre. This past year Stephens presented a statewide arts education summit focusing on her book "Arts Integration in Education: Teachers and Teaching Artists as Agents of Change." It was funded with support from the Missouri Arts Council, the Bank of Missouri, Missouri Alliance for Arts Education and the Columbia Visitors Bureau.

- **preferred contact info:** via Kristy Simpson, Administrative Assistant, ksimpson@stephens.edu; 573-876-7194
- **conference presentation:** Monday, noon to 1:30 p.m. – Shining a Light on the Importance of Arts Education and Arts Integration keynote address

Ben Martin

Executive Director, Missouri Alliance for Arts Education

Ben Martin taught and directed educational theatre in Missouri for 34 years before retiring in 2010. During his career he was recognized with a variety of Teacher of the Year honors and also has been inducted into four different Halls of Fame. He is certain this proves that if you hang around long enough, organizations will run out of worthy honorees and have to eventually recognize you somehow. After serving as an MAAE board member for a number of years, he accepted the position of Executive Director in 2013. He has also served the past seven years as the Missouri Advocacy Captain for Americans for the Arts. He enjoys the challenge of working with the various education and arts organizations in the state to give a valuable arts experience to every student in every school in every community.

- **preferred contact info:** brmbj3@gmail.com; 816-522-8387; 302 NE Keystone Drive, Lee's Summit, MO 64086
- **conference presentation:** Monday, following the noon to 1:30 p.m. keynote – Statewide Arts Education Updates

Danielle Merrick

Executive Director, Kansas City Volunteer Lawyers and Accounts for the Arts

For the last fourteen years, Danielle has been the Director of the UMKC Entrepreneurial Legal Services Clinic, and the Executive Director of the KCVLAA for the last nine. She is a Kansas and Missouri licensed attorney with experience in business formation and taxation issues for both non-profit and for-profit entities, and intellectual property matters.

- **preferred contact info:** admin@KCVLAA.org

- **conference presentation:** Tuesday, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. – Legal and Accounting Issues in the Arts

Virginia Sanders

Special Initiatives Coordinator, Missouri Arts Council

Virginia Sanders is the Missouri Arts Council's Special Initiatives Coordinator. Her duties include coordination of the Missouri Arts Awards, Poetry Out Loud, Arts and Aging, Missouri Poet Laureate. Additionally, she serves as MAC's 504 ADA coordinator. Virginia has been with the Missouri Arts Council since 2003. Prior to working at MAC she spent 30 years in the apparel industry as a market and product manager.

- **preferred contact info:** virginia.sanders@ded.mo.gov; 314-340-6851
- **conference presentation:** Monday, 11:00 a.m. to noon – Updates from Statewide Partners & Leaders

Dr. Jo Stealey

Director, University of Missouri School of Visual Studies

University of Missouri educator and leader Dr. Jo Stealey is a renowned fiber artist, nationally recognized artist known for her mixed-media sculptures and collages utilizing handmade paper. She teaches workshops, lectures on contemporary fiber and exhibits her work nationally and internationally. Stealey's art encompasses both two- and three-dimensional formats. It appears in private and public collections, including the National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. An authority on contemporary fiber and American basketry, Stealey has given multiple lectures at the National Basketry Organization and elsewhere. Most recently, she co-curated "Rooted, Revived, Reinvented: Basketry in America," which is traveling the country for a three-year period. Stealey's students helped with the collection, gaining hands-on experience with exhibition development – a model that's now being promoted as an inventive way for university museums to engage students. In her time at the University of Missouri, Stealey has mentored and nurtured a generation of fiber artists. She has also served in numerous leadership roles, including head of fibers and chair of the art department. In 2017, she was named founding director of MU's School of Visual Studies. With Stealey at the helm, the school offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in art, art history, digital storytelling and film studies. Stealey serves as a professor of art in the College of Arts and Science.

- **preferred contact info.:** stealeyj@missouri.edu; 573-882-7547; MU SVS, A102 Swallow, University of Missouri Columbia, MO 65211
- **conference presentation:** Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. -- Art on the Move

Jason Vasser-Elong

Program Specialist II for Community Arts, Missouri Arts Council

Jason Vasser-Elong is a writer from St. Louis, Missouri. After earning a master of fine arts in creative writing from the University of Missouri – St. Louis, he published his debut collection of poetry, titled *Shrimp* (2Leaf Press), in April of 2018, distributed by the University of Chicago Press. Among other publications, he also has an academic essay "Treading the Atlantic" in the special edition of the *Canadian Journal of Netherlandic Studies – Netherlandic Migrations: Narratives from North America*. His most recent poetry appears in *The St. Louis anthology* (Belt Publishing, 2019), the latest in their City Anthology Series. In February, Jason was the featured poet for the Arts & Education Council's Catalyst Conversations and is excited for opportunities to read and share his work. Jason teaches English and currently serves as the program specialist in community arts at the Missouri Arts Council.

- **preferred contact info.:** jason.vasser-elong@ded.mo.gov
- **conference presentation:** Monday, 11 a.m. to noon – Updates from Statewide Partners & Leaders