



THE ARTS COMMISSION
INSPIRING A VIBRANT TOLEDO

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

MARC D. FOLK

PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

President and Chief Executive Officer, Marc D. Folk, began with The Arts Commission in 1996 as an instructor in the Young Artists at Work program and has since worked with passionate dedication to advance the arts, culture and community development in the Toledo region. Marc represents The Arts Commission on various national and regional committees to advocate for and promote the development of the arts. He served for three years as the president of the Ohio Citizens for the Arts, is past co-chair of the Toledo Area Cultural Leaders (TACL) and is an active member of the United States Urban Arts Federation. He is a 2006 recipient of the 20 Under 40 Leadership Award, the 2009 winner of the Ohio Arts Council's Governor's Award for Arts Administration and in 2010 he was recognized as the University of Toledo's Outstanding Alumnus in the Arts. In 2018 he was awarded the Ray Hanley Innovation Award by the Americans for the Arts in recognition of outstanding individual contributions to arts and culture in American cities. He has served as a four time grants panelist for the National Endowment for Arts, most recently for CARES Act. Marc is a 1998 graduate of the University of Toledo, with a BFA in Sculpture and a minor in Printmaking. He is a DJ and avid record collector and lives in Toledo's Old West End with his son Holden.

JENNIFER JARRETT

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

With over 25 years of experience in non-profit administration, Jennifer became a member of The Arts Commission staff in 2007. Her primary responsibilities as Chief Operating Officer include fundraising and development efforts to support The Arts Commission's programs and activities. Jennifer has worked in the arts community in Toledo since 1999. She serves on the boards of Scrap4Art, Northwest Ohio Community Shares, and Toledo Sister Cities International. She holds a Master of Liberal Studies degree from the University of Toledo.

RYAN A. BUNCH

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES DIRECTOR

Ryan A. Bunch is Director of Community Initiatives at The Arts Commission where he manages the Creative Placemaking Program, focuses on community programs, performing and literary arts, and strategic implementation and partnerships. He has served and presented on panels for the American for the Arts, Ohio Arts Council, Ohio Community Development Association, and many others. Locally, he has been active in a number of civic groups and organizations. Ryan was a 2016 recipient of

Toledo's '20 Under 40' Leadership Award. A published writer, Ryan is a poet and spoken word performance artist who earned his BA in Creative Writing from the University of Toledo where he studied Nonprofit Administration at The Washington Center Internship Program in Washington D.C.

KELLY ROSE HIRSH

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Kelly joined The Arts Commission in 2018. As the Director of Development, Kelly is responsible for the implementation of fundraising events, campaigns and corporate sponsorships. Prior to joining The Arts Commission, Kelly worked for over a decade in Chicago, primarily focused on public policy issues in the field of women's health. Her experience includes volunteer management, community organizing and community education, as well as electoral campaign work. Kelly earned a Bachelor's degree in International Studies from Miami University and a Master's degree in Public Policy and Public Administration from Northwestern University. She also serves on the Board for the Perrysburg Schools Foundation.

NATHAN MATTIMOE

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES DIRECTOR

Nathan Mattimoe has worked as a project manager for nine years. Nathan joined The Arts Commission as the Art in Public Places Coordinator in 2013. Nathan administers the City of Toledo's One Percent for Art ordinance through The Arts Commission's Art in Public Places program. This includes managing new public art projects and overseeing the maintenance and conservation of the City's more than 40 public art pieces, with additional focus on public art education and community outreach.

LINDSAY AKENS

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING MANAGER

Lindsay Akens joined The Arts Commission in 2015 and serves Toledo's neighborhoods through Creative Placemaking strategies and is passionate about collaborative and empowering programming. Before joining The Arts Commission Lindsay lived in Columbia, Missouri where she worked at organizations such as the Craft Studio and the CARE Gallery and sought to make the arts accessible to everyone. After moving to Toledo, Lindsay became involved with various organizations such as Toledo Soup, Spoken Toledo, and The Ohio Theatre. She co-organized the Glass City Film Festival and is a member of the Toledo International Film Festival planning committee. She earned her BFA from Bowling Green State University in darkroom photography and her MPA from the University of Missouri, Columbia. She is a proud member of the Bubble Sharks, creates under the name ARTSSHARK, and is an avid composter. Ask her about crafts.

MARCIA CULLING

FINANCIAL MANAGER

As part time Financial Manager for The Arts Commission, Marcia is responsible for the fiscal and human resource management of the organization. She holds a

Bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo and 30 years of experience in public business administration.

EMILY FINKEL

OFFICE MANAGER

Emily joined The Arts Commission staff in 2008. Emily leads administrative coordination among staff and manages communication. She serves as the executive assistant to both the Chief Operating Officer, and President and Chief Executive Officer, and works closely with managing events, fundraising, and personnel strategies for various programs and services, including Young Artists at Work, and Hot Glass. Emily received her B.A. in the History of Art and Architecture from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. In addition to her work at The Arts Commission, Emily works building and restoring stained glass art, and volunteers for the Toledo Opera.

NATALIE GRAY

YOUTH SERVICES MANAGER

Natalie Gray is a graduate from the University of Toledo with a B.A. in Communication. Gray first got involved with The Arts Commission through volunteering for Artomatic 419! and the Art Loop. With a focus on creative nonprofits, her experience includes development work at Toledo School for the Arts as the Alumni Relations Liaison and a summer at The Toledo Museum of Art in the Special Events department. In 2016, Gray started on The Arts Commission's Creative Placemaking team working to connect artists to neighborhood residents. In 2018, Gray took on the role of Youth Services Manager, including the Ninth Congressional District Invitational Art Exhibition and Young Artists At Work programs. She also sits on the board of Toledo SOUP.

HOPE HOOPER

MOMENTUM FESTIVAL MANAGER

Hope Hooper joined the Arts Commission as the Momentum Festival Manager and has a background in fine arts, event planning, and marketing. Hope grew up in the Toledo area and has enjoyed participating in Arts Commission programs throughout her life as well as being a part of several group and individual exhibitions and volunteering for art organizations. She received a BFA from Columbus College of Art and Design and an MBA in marketing from Tiffin University all while working in the hospitality industry. After graduating with her MBA, she moved to northern Arizona for several years where she worked as an arts and culture coordinator for a parks and recreation department. Through her work in Arizona Hope built her skills in project management, event planning, customer service, communications, and arts programming. In late 2020 she moved back to Toledo to be closer to family and to pursue a career in the arts serving this community. In her spare time Hope enjoys working on her art, spending time with her family and pets, and growing her houseplant collection.

CRYSTAL PHELPS

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Crystal is a prominent advocate for arts and culture in Toledo, OH. Driven by the spirit of collaboration, she works with community partners to enhance constituent engagement to support the mission and values of The Arts Commission. From festival production to communications strategies, her strengths in logistical organization run the gamut from macro to micro projects. Crystal's marketing and communications approach features a broad skill set including social media content creation and implementation, yearly data-driven strategic planning, and a nimble approach that embraces flexibility along with time sensitivity. She develops program campaigns, creates content, and delivers messaging with a top of mind approach to engage a variety of audience segments.

Crystal is an artist and curator whose work focuses on the nexus of humor and body politics. She is a 2017 Master of Fine Arts recipient from Maine College of Art and received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Printmaking from Arizona State University in 2008.

ANDREA PRICE

ARTIST SERVICES MANAGER

As the Art Services Manager for The Arts Commission Andrea Price is able to help local artists advance their careers by planning, developing, coordinating, and managing various grant programs. She is an advocate for artists having the professional resources they need to succeed. Her introduction to The Arts Commission began during her time working at the Economic Community Development Institute, a non-profit that helps small businesses. Price is passionate about social justice, equity, and helping others. She is an eclectic artist and business owner of Andrea & Her Art and Healing Conversations which mirror her interests. She is a recent graduate of The University of Toledo with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2-Dimensional Studies in 2020. Andrea Price is excited to serve our local community.

NATALIE TRANELLI-JACOBS

ART LOOP MANAGER

Natalie Tranelli-Jacobs is the Art Loop Manager for The Arts Commission and leads the organization's volunteer and internship programs. Natalie is a community based artist and educator and photographer by trade. As a Fulbright Scholar Natalie has worked internationally, collaborating with communities in Brazil, Azerbaijan, Nicaragua and Chad, teaching with National Geographic Photo Camp. Natalie is currently adjunct faculty of Photography at Owens Community College, having previously taught at The Art Institute of Michigan in Detroit. She holds a BFA in photography at Pennsylvania State University and a MFA in Community Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art.

JESSE HEIDER-AYLING

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COORDINATOR

Jesse joined The Arts Commission as the Art in Public Places Coordinator in early 2021. She studied Art History and Interior Design at Bowling Green State University and has her BFA in New Media Design from the University of Toledo. Prior to joining the Arts Commission, Jesse worked as a graphic artist for 10+ years in the Toledo area, as well as engaging in community work with the Uptown Association and Village on Adams boards. She has a strong desire to work with the arts community in and around Toledo while taking some time to focus on her own crafts and hobbies.

EMILY HORST

CULTURAL ASSETS RESEARCH AND MAPPING COORDINATOR

Emily Horst is the Cultural Assets Research and Mapping Coordinator, joining The Arts Commission as a LISC/AmeriCorps member. After graduating from The University of Toledo in May of 2018, she moved to Colorado for a ceramic apprenticeship at an art gallery. Upon returning in March of 2020 as the pandemic hit, she knew she wanted to find a way to get involved with community outreach and engagement. After learning of this position she jumped at the opportunity and has found a great team of creatives working together to bring arts and culture to the entire Toledo community.

AIREN MEYER

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING COORDINATOR

Airen Meyer joined the Arts Commission in 2021, fulfilling a longstanding aspiration to contribute to her community in a meaningful way. Airen is a painter, printmaker, and parent who is particularly interested in the intersection of physical and mental health and the arts. Aside from travelling extensively abroad, she is proud to be a lifelong resident of Toledo, volunteering with local nonprofits and activists. In her role as a Creative Placemaking Coordinator she focuses predominantly on the UpTown area, working to connect residents to resources that foster creativity and community, promote equity, and improve quality of life.

DAVID ROSS

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING COORDINATOR

Dave Ross is a community artist turned advocate for youth and creativity. He is an alumnus of The Arts Commission's Young Artist at Work and an artist leader and founder of the charity Dunkin 4 Donations. He has a heart for mentorship, which he utilizes as a boxing coach for Soul City Boxing Club. Ross has been a member of The Art Commission's Creative Placemaking team for two years, working to connect visual art and social issues, with a focus on youth against crime, art and health, and honoring local legends Art Tatum and Jon Hendricks to inspire our community. Ross also works with the City of Toledo Youth Commission to build creative engagement opportunities for young people.