



PIEDMONT COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

PCA Board Bios

Jenn Austin grew up in Charlottesville and graduated from James Madison University with a degree in Business Administration. She worked as a buyer for UVA Medical Center then left the area to pursue opportunities in purchasing with General Electric and Webvan Group. She returned to Charlottesville in 2000 and received a Masters in Education from Mary Baldwin College. Following a brief career in teaching, she started a consulting company that specializes in helping small businesses set up their accounting systems. She currently works as a Business Manager for Red Star Merchandise and maintains clients through her consulting company. Jenn had her first child in October and is enjoying parenthood with her husband Ty, a founding partner in Sticks Kebob Shop. Jenn joined the PCA Board in January 2012.

George Beller is Professor of Cardiology at the University of Virginia Health System. He engages in specialty patient care, teaching, and research. The latter relates to the development of new imaging technologies to better diagnose heart disease. George is a past member of the board of Live Arts and has been an ardent supporter of the Virginia Film Festival and the Chamber Music Festival, among other arts organizations. He joined the PCA Board in 2004, and his wife Kakie Brooks serves on the board of the Tuesday Evening Concert Series. George became PCA Board President in July 2010.

Blake Caravati is a 7th generation Virginian and a Charlottesville resident for more than 30 years. He founded Vector Construction in 1978 upon moving here. Blake served in elected and appointed offices in Charlottesville government for more than 20 years, including service as Charlottesville's Mayor. He is an enthusiastic supporter of the Art in Place program and has been a member of the Charlottesville Sister City Commission since 2008. He currently serves on the Board of Offender Aid and Restoration in Charlottesville, and he joined the PCA Board in 2009. Blake and his wife travel to France every year to indulge what he labels as his "long term hobby of studying Flamboyant Ecclesiastical Stone Architecture."

James Carnes serves as the Chief Operating Officer of the UVA School of Medicine's Department of Radiology & Medical Imaging, and has over 20 years of experience in health care and physician practice administration. A Charlottesville resident for over 25 years, James became interested in the arts through training as a classical pianist and as a bass player in his high school's symphony orchestra. He continues to enjoy music and all of the arts, as well as travel, and is an enthusiastic supporter of the Charlottesville & University Symphony Orchestra, for which his partner, R. Clark Hantzmon, serves on the Board. James joined the PCA Board in January 2012.

Tom Cogill is a professional photographer based in Charlottesville, who joined the PCA Board in 2006. Tom's photography can be viewed online at <http://www.tomcogill.com/>. Along with work for commercial and magazine clients, Tom photographs for the Legal Aid Justice Center, the Ixtatan Foundation, and the Central American Solar Energy Project. He curated PCA's 2010 photography exhibition at McGuffey Art Center, "PCA Presents: Women in the Arts." Tom is married to Margo Smith, previous PCA Board President and Director and Curator of Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection.

Ardee Dimberg has been a part of the Charlottesville community for more than 30 years. Her career as an educator includes time spent as a teacher, division administrator, and then Deputy Superintendent of a local school division. Her advocacy for the visual and performing arts in education is well documented. Ardee received the PCA Education Award in 1989 and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005. She has been on the PCA Board since 2006 and currently serves as Board Secretary. Ardee also serves on the Education Committee for The Paramount Theater.

Helene Downs is a CPA in public practice at Hantzmon Wiebel LLP in downtown Charlottesville. Helene's areas of specialty include trust and estate taxation and administration and individual taxation. Helene joined the PCA Board in 2007 and now serves as Treasurer. In this capacity, she works closely with the PCA Executive Director and the Financial Oversight Committee to develop and manage the annual budget and major grant programs. Helene is also an avid gardener and lover of the outdoors.

Bobbi Dunn has extensive public policy experience in the arts, humanities, and education. She served as Director of the Congressional Relations Office of the National Endowment for the Arts, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education for Student Financial Assistance Programs, and Education Policy Director for a United States Senator serving on budget and authorizing committees for programs in these fields. She also taught public policy and American constitutional law at Kenyon College and American University and worked as a Senior Professional in a small law firm in Alexandria. Bobbi moved to Charlottesville in 2007 and joined the PCA Board in 2008; she became PCA Vice President in July 2010. Bobbi telecommuted to offices in Springfield and McLean, VA, supporting the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and as a Proposal Specialist for Science Applications International Corporation until her retirement in June 2011. She is an avid knitter.

Tullia M. Lynch currently teaches Italian at UVA's School of Continuing Education. She has brought small groups to the Italian Alps, where many of her relatives live, and she has worked with the Charlottesville-based Opera Festival di Roma. Before coming to Charlottesville, she worked in radio and cable television. Tullia joined the PCA Board of Directors in 2009, and she serves on the Programs Committee. She's also known for her delicious homemade biscotti.

Nina Ozbey is an educator, artist, and community leader. She taught for 22 years in the Charlottesville school system -- beloved by parents, students, administrators and colleagues. After retiring from teaching, she devoted time to the formal study of painting. Her paintings have been exhibited across the country, including two shows in New York. Nina has served as President of the Central Virginia Watercolor Guild and the Virginia

Watercolor Society, and as Chairman of the Emily Couric Leadership Forum. She joined the PCA Board in 2009 and currently serves as Programs Committee Chair.

Elizabeth Piper, a graduate of the University of Virginia, works as the Director of Development for the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities where she spearheads all fundraising efforts for the state humanities council for Virginia. Previously, Elizabeth served as UVA's Associate Director of Development for Historic Preservation. She returned to Charlottesville after stints in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, having served as the Corporate Events Fundraising Director for the American Heart Association and Senior Leadership Gifts Manager for the San Francisco Opera. Elizabeth volunteers at the Paramount, and she is a member of 2nd Street Gallery and the University of Virginia Art Museum. She joined the PCA Board in July 2010.

Donna Plasket is Assistant Dean of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies and Director of the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program at UVA. Previous positions include: research director at Harvard Project Zero, faculty member at New England Conservatory of Music; Executive Director of Development and Director of the Chapel Choir at Westminster Choir College, music teacher at two New Jersey high schools, Associate Director of the Women's Center at UVA, and conductor of the Virginia Women's Chorus. Donna serves on many other boards including the College Board of PVCC, Piedmont Educational Foundation, Dean's Advisory Council of Westminster Choir College (chair), Hospice of the Piedmont (chair), Ash Lawn Opera Festival Foundation, Ash Lawn Opera Guild, The Oratorio Society of Virginia, Charlottesville Writing Center, and Women Educational Leaders of Virginia.

Anna von Gehr began her passion for the arts by training and competing as a classical pianist. After volunteering as a docent while an undergrad at the University of California, she went on to get an M.A. in Museum Studies and discovered the world of fundraising on behalf of museums. Anna has worked in major gifts and planned giving for the Museum of Craft and Folks Art in San Francisco, The Oakland Museum of California, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond. In 2009, she became the Director of Development for the University of Virginia Art Museums where she is the chief fundraising officer for both the University of Virginia Art Museum and the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Museum. While in Richmond, Anna served on the board of the nation's oldest non-profit contemporary art gallery, the artist-run 1708 Gallery, and was an advisory board member of Curated Culture, which developed the First Friday Art Walks. Anna is also married to artist Rob Tarbell, who runs the Graphic Design program at PVCC. She joined the PCA Board in July 2010.

Bryan Wright is a partner in the law firm Williams Mullen. His representation of local and national clients focuses on business transactions and litigation, particularly intellectual property protection, national resources development, and related business and financing matters. Among his extensive service to this community, Bryan is a past Chairman of the Virginia Piedmont Technology Council, past President of the Charlottesville Rotary Club, and currently serves as Chairman of the Intellectual Property Law Committee of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Bar Association. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Charlottesville Economic Development Authority, the Board of Directors of The Education Foundation of Piedmont Virginia Community College, and the Board of Directors of The Entrepreneurial Village, a local civic organization. Bryan joined the PCA Board in July 2010.