



Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Mayor's Office, Department of Community Planning & Economic
Development and the Minneapolis Arts Commission

Date: December 20, 2011

To: Council Member Gary Schiff, Zoning and Planning Committee

Prepared by: Arlene Robinson, Office Support Specialist, 612-673-2597

Approved by: Jason Wittenberg, Interim Planning Director

Approved by: Erica Prosser, Policy Aide

Approved by: Barbara Johnson, Council President

Presenters in Committee:

Subject: Appointments to the Minneapolis Arts Commission

Recommendation: Approve the following (Mayor/Council) appointments

Name of Appointee	Appointed by Mayor or Council	Ward	New or Reappointment	Number of years of term	Term Beginning/Ending	Replacing or fulfilling the term of another member: Name
James Bartsch	Council	12	Reappointment	2	01/01/12 - 12/31/13	
Blake Iverson	Council	7	Reappointment	2	01/01/12 - 12/31/13	
Bill O'Connor	Council	2	Reappointment	2	01/01/12 - 12/31/13	
Sarah Sampedro	Mayor	5	Reappointment	2	01/01/12 - 12/31/13	
Margo Ashmore	Mayor	3	New	2	01/01/12 - 12/31/13	
Brenda Bell	Mayor	6	New	2	01/01/12 - 12/31/13	
Robert Hunter	Mayor	8	New	2	01/01/12 - 12/31/13	
Mary Lee	Council	12	New	2	01/01/12 - 12/31/13	
Deanna Newman	Council	7	New	2	01/01/12 - 12/31/13	
Craig Seacotte	Council	10	New	2	01/01/12 - 12/31/13	

Previous Directives

None

Financial Impact

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Background/Supporting Information Attached

James Barch [Administration - Council]

James' background is primarily in music and education. As an Education Director with the Minnesota Orchestra since 1999, he is responsible for producing the Orchestra's School and Family concerts, outreach, and other educational programs. A primary educational goal is to increase access for all segments of our community by reducing logistical or financial barriers, or by providing educational materials and experience that will increase the relevance and understanding of the music we perform.

Blake Iverson [Administration - Council]

Blake is an entertainment attorney with Friedman Iverson, PLLC, specializing in artist's rights. He is also a musician, having performed with various groups in and around Minneapolis for more than fifteen years, and a freelance writer. He is currently serving as Secretary for the Arts and Entertainment section of the Minnesota Bar Association.

Bill O'Connor [Lay - Council]

Bill is working full time at the University of Minnesota and is a part-time Masters of Public Affairs student in the Humphrey Institute. He is also a Graphic Designer and Strategic Communications Planner. Mostly recently he coordinated the installation of large graphic films for glass walls on two floors of the new Science Teaching & Student Services (STSS) building.

Sarah Sampedro [Artist - Mayor]

Sarah is a photographer who is deeply involved in the North Side arts scene, has taught for Minneapolis Community Education, and helps other North Side artists gain exposure through her work with the Northside Arts Collective. She will add an invaluable perspective as an artist and resident of the neighborhood where many proposals appearing before MAC originate.

Margo Ashmore [Administration - Mayor]

Margo works as a consultant; her clients include Northside Arts Collective and Pro Media, Inc. She coordinated Art-A-Whirl for Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association. She currently is a management consultant to Northside Arts Collective. Margo's art is photography, and the monthly newspaper – NorthNews – editing/writing/photography. Her photos have been in solo and group shows.

Brenda Bell [Artist - Mayor]

Brenda has actively served the community's arts interest in both paid and unpaid capacities. Her service affiliations include the Minnesota State Arts Board; the State Council on Black Minnesotans; the Minnesota Black Storytellers Alliance; SASE: The Write Place; the Playwrights Center; the Archie Givens Minnesota Black Writers Association and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council.

Robert Hunter [Lay - Mayor]

Robert has been a practicing architect for 17 years, 13 in Minneapolis and 4 in Chicago. He is associate and senior project architect/designer with James Dayton Design where he has worked with many arts and cultural institutions in the design and construction of their buildings. He was architect in charge of the MacPhail Center for Music and the Highpoint Center for Printmaking projects; he is currently working with the Textile Center of Minnesota.

Mary Lee [Administration - Council]

Mary serves as Executive Director of Cantus, a collaborative organization. She has been instrumental in increasing ticket sales from \$65K to \$108K from fiscal year 2010 to fiscal year 2011. They expanded their venues to neighborhoods across the Twin Cities and are the first music ensemble to present at the new Cowles Center this season. Mary is also a working book artist and has her certificate in book arts from Minnesota Center for Book Arts. Mary was Managing Director at Franconia Sculpture Park and worked in public media as Managing Director of National Classical programs with Minnesota Public Radio.

Deanna Newman [Lay - Council]

Deanna was the director of the Allegany County Arts Council in Maryland. In the position she awarded grants to local artists, operated a small arts center with display space, and worked closely with the downtown revitalization of Cumberland, Maryland. She was a liaison with the State of Maryland Arts Council and coordinated an active 'Arts in the Schools' program. Deanna has been working on updating a map of the public art in the Minneapolis downtown area with the goal of creating a walking tour.

Craig Seacotte [Lay - Council]

Craig has demonstrated a 20+ year commitment to the local arts community. Most recently, he completed a two year term on the Board of Directors at Soo Visual Art Center, a non-profit art gallery located in Minneapolis' Lyn-Lake neighborhood. In this role he has been actively engaged in program development, governance, and development strategies. Craig's undergraduate majors were art history, cultural studies, and journalism, with a focus on contemporary art, semiotics and arts criticism.



Application for re-appointment to a Board, Committee, Commission, or Task Force

DATA CLASSIFICATION ADVISORY

Some of the information on this form is public data under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Chapter 13. The data is being requested so that the appointing authority can make an informed decision as to the appointment to the relevant board, commission, committee or task force. An applicant is not required to provide any information; however, failure to answer any of the questions on this application may cause the appointing authority to reject the application or to select another candidate. The data on this form will be maintained by the City of Minneapolis in accordance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and the non-public portions of the form, if any, will be available to individuals working for the City whose work assignments reasonably require access.

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Title of the Board, Commission, Committee, or Task Force this application is for

Name: James Bartsch

Ward:
12

City of residence: Minneapolis

Occupation:
Director of Education

Employer:
Minnesota Orchestra

Employer's Address:
Orchestra Hall, 1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403



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Title of the Board, Commission, Committee, or Task Force this application is for

Name: Blake Iverson		Ward: 7
City of residence: Minneapolis		
Occupation: Attorney	Employer: Friedman Iverson, PLLC	
Employer's Address: 2609 Aldrich Avenue S, Ste. 102, Minneapolis, MN 55408		



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Title of the Board, Commission, Committee, or Task Force this application is for

Minneapolis Arts Commission

Name: Bill O'Connor

Ward: 2

City of residence: Minneapolis

**Occupation: Assistant Director,
Communication**

**Employer: University of Minnesota, Orientation & First-Year
Programs (OFYP) office**

**Employer's Address: 300 Washington Avenue SE, 315 Coffman Memorial Union, Minneapolis, MN
55455**



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<u>Title of the Board, Commission, Committee, or Task Force this application is for</u>	
Minneapolis Arts Commission	
Name: Sarah Rust Sampedro	Ward: 5
City of residence: Minneapolis	
Occupation: Photographer	Employer: self
Employer's Address: 1240 Russell Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411	



**Application for appointment to a
Board, Committee, Commission, or Task Force**

FILED
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
11 OCT 11 AM 8:12
CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT

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Title of the Board, Commission, Committee, or Task Force this application is for
Minneapolis Arts Commission – consider me as either artist or arts administrator

Name: Margo Ashmore	Ward: 3
City of residence: Minneapolis	

Occupation: Consultant	Employer: Self – clients include Northside Arts Collective, and Pro Media, Inc.
Employer's Address: 1300 6 th St. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413	

Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.

Coordinated Art-A-Whirl for Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association 2000-2002

Currently management consultant to Northside Arts Collective

Frequent volunteer/contributor to various business & community associations, served as president of Northeast Business Association in the mid-1990s.

Won a Minneapolis Award in 2001. Serving on Neighborhood Partnership Initiative grant panel, and MRAC

My art is photography, and the monthly newspaper, NorthNews (editing/writing/photography)

Curated art for Franklin Bank and other businesses. Coordinated Arts Resource Fair for Mpls. (2000)

My photos have been in solo and group shows. Example sets: "The Street Where You Live" foreclosure images, "Rebuild" at NorthPoint (tornado related), "Looking Up" exploring angle and lighting.

Return completed applications to:

Email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov

Mail or delivery City Clerk Appointments
Room 304, 350 S. 5th St
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1382

Fax 612-673-3812

Application for appointment to a Board, Committee, Commission, or Task Force

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Title of the Board, Commission, Committee, or Task Force this application is for

Name: Brenda Bell Brown	Ward: Ward 6
City of residence: Minneapolis	

Occupation: Artist	Employer: Self-employed
Employer's Address: 1721 Third Avenue South, Apartment 7, Minneapolis, MN 55404	

Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.

Since moving to the Twin Cities over twenty years ago, I have actively served the community's arts interests in both paid and unpaid capacities. My service affiliations include the Minnesota State Arts Board, the State Council on Black Minnesotans, the Minnesota Black Storytellers Alliance, SASE: The Write Place, the Playwrights Center, the Archie Givens Minnesota Black Writers Association and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, among others. Special accolades have been bestowed upon me both within and without the Twin Cities. Among many, they include: Resident Guest, 2011 & 2005 Hedgebrook Women Writers' Retreat; 2010 Recipient, Minnesota State Arts Board Cultural Collaborations Partnership Grant; Participant, 2007 & 2005 Theater Unbound Annual Fundraisers 24-Hour Play Project; Listed Reading, Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop 2005 National Black Theater Festival; Third Place, 5th Annual Juneteenth Festival of New Works, University of Louisville, KY; Douglas Turner Ward/Alice Childress Scriptwriting Award, 1997 Seventh Annual Black Writers Conference, Chicago State University Gwendolyn Brooks Center; Literary Arts Award (three-time recipient), Juneteenth Celebration Committee, Minneapolis, MN.

Return completed applications to:

<i>Email</i>	cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov	
<i>Mail or delivery</i>		City Clerk Appointments Room 304, 350 S. 5 th St Minneapolis, MN 55415-1382
<i>Fax</i>		612-673-3812



Application for appointment to a Board, Committee, Commission, or Task Force

FILED
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN
11 OCT 14 PM 1:57
CITY CLERK
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Title of the Board, Commission, Committee, or Task Force this application is for
Minneapolis Arts Commission

Name: Mary E. Lee	Ward: 12
City of residence: Minneapolis	

Occupation: Executive Director	Employer: Cantus
Employer's Address: 4915 W. 35 th Street Minneapolis, MN 55416	

Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.

As Executive Director of Cantus, I have been responsible for refocusing the organization on serving its home audience of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Ticket sales our home concerts have gone from \$65,000 in FY10 to \$108,000 in FY11. We expanded our venues to neighborhoods across the Twin Cities and are the first music ensemble to present at the new Cowles Center this season.

Cantus works as a collaborative organization. This means that we make the majority of our decisions together. My most significant work each day is to listen to all of the voices of the organization and ensure that our priorities and plans are supported and being followed. I am also responsible for our fundraising, board development and strategic planning.

Before coming to Cantus I was Managing Director at Franconia Sculpture Park and worked in public media as Managing Director of National Classical programs with Minnesota Public Radio for over 25 years. While at MPR, my work won two Peabody Awards and the College of St. Benedict presented its Alumnae Achievement Award in 1998.

I grew up in Minneapolis and have loved the city all of my life. In addition to my work with Cantus, I am a working book artist and have my certificate in book arts from Minnesota Center for Book Arts. I have served on the board of MCBA as well as the YWCA St. Paul.



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<u>Title of the Board, Commission, Committee, or Task Force this application is for</u>	
Arts Commission	
Name: Deanna Newman	Ward: 7
City of residence: Minneapolis	
Occupation: Consultant	Employer: Public Pathways, Inc.
Employer's Address: 1235 Yale place #1204 Minneapolis, MN 55403	
Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.	
At a younger age I was the director of the Allegany County Arts Council (Md.). In this position, I awarded grants to local artists, operated a small arts center with display space, and worked closely with the downtown revitalization of Cumberland, MD. I was also the liaison with the State of Md. Arts Council and coordinated an active 'Arts in the Schools' program.	
Later, as director of Facilities Planning and Capital Budgeting for Montgomery County Public Schools, I facilitated the 5% 'Art and Public Places' program for new and modernization projects.	
I have more than ten years with college and community theater, and in my current role, developing educational specifications, I have participated in the design of nationally respected fine arts schools.	

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<u>Title of the Board, Commission, Committee, or Task Force this application is for</u> Minneapolis Arts Commission	
Name: Craig Seacotte	Ward: 10
City of residence: Minneapolis	

Occupation: Manager, Communications, Reputation Management	Employer: Target
Employer's Address: 1000 Nicollet Mall; Minneapolis MN 55403	

Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.

I believe the combination of my professional work at Target to drive community engagement and corporate social responsibility strategies together with my long involvement with the local arts community—as a Board Member, employee, and volunteer—make me well qualified to serve on the Minneapolis Arts Commission. I am applying for consideration as a layperson applicant.

In my current role, I am responsible for defining strategies and coordinating execution of both communications campaigns and programmatic efforts to demonstrate and advance Target’s commitment to responsible corporate citizenship. My work includes management of relationships with NGOs, public/private partnerships, policy positioning, public relations, employee communications, external advocacy strategies and philanthropic strategy.

Complementing my professional experience, I have demonstrated a 20+ year commitment to the local arts community. Most recently, I completed a two-year term in August on the Board of Directors at Soo Visual Art Center, a non-profit art gallery located in Minneapolis’ Lyn-Lake neighborhood. In this role, I have been actively engaged in program development, governance, and development strategies as we, like many arts organizations, struggled to fulfill our mission and enrich the cultural life of our community while facing challenging philanthropic shifts from the arts to social services and overall reductions in funders’ budgets. In

spite of this challenge, during my Board tenure at Soo, the gallery has successfully expanded the depth and breadth of its programs while achieving a sustainable fiscal model, turning around a significant budget deficit that threatened its existence. Simultaneously, we expanded our community partnerships and grew membership by more than 30 percent.

In other volunteer roles, I have developed, executed and evaluated programming, coordinated publicity, undertaken grant writing and reporting, and managed grant allocations for a number of arts and philanthropic organizations, including No Name Exhibitions at The Soap Factory, Ballet of the Dolls, Northrop Dance Series, P-Fund and Regions Hospital Foundation.

In addition to these volunteer roles, my employment history includes 7+ years at the Walker Art Center in several departments including education and community relations; membership and development; and PR and Marketing. My contributions included coordination of membership and capital development campaigns; coordination of audience outreach and diversification efforts, including development of long-term strategic community partnerships; coordination of a diversity community advisory committee and a volunteer alliance; design and implementation of a model teen engagement program and expansion of partnerships with schools; coordination of adult education series; and coordination of artist residency projects. Through these roles, I developed a holistic understanding of curatorial practice, development, evaluation, marketing, education and outreach, and nurtured relationships with leaders of arts and cultural organizations throughout the Twin Cities.

Finally, academically, my undergraduate majors were art history, cultural studies, and journalism, with a focus on contemporary art, semiotics and arts criticism. Through the combination of my professional, Board, volunteer and personal experiences, I have demonstrated my commitment to supporting the vibrancy and diversity of the Twin Cities. I would like to contribute my passions to the Arts Commission.

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