



GREATER BALTIMORE
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GBCA Elects New President and Board Members

Five Arts Leaders Join GBCA's Board of Directors

Baltimore, MD (2/14/18) The Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance is delighted to announce that Dr. Sheri Parks has been elected president of the Board of Directors and assumed her new role as of January 1st 2018. Dr. Parks has been on the Board since 2013, most recently serving as Vice President. **Dr. Sheri Parks** is Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of Maryland, and has initiated a number of innovative programs in Baltimore, including the Baltimore Think-a-thon for which GBCA is a multi-year partner.

Joining Dr. Sheri Parks as officers are Bryn Parchman, Vice President; Navasha Daya, Secretary; and Fred Bronstein, Treasurer.

GBCA is also proud to announce the following people have been elected to serve on the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance Board of Directors:

- Wanda Draper (*Executive Director, The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture*)
- Carla Du Pree (*Executive Director, CityLit Project*)
- John Hendricks (*Dean of Arts, St. Paul's Schools*)
- Garey Hyatt (*Assistant Professor, Coppin State University*)
- Monica Lopez-Gonzalez (*Co-Founder & Executive Scientific & Artistic Director, La Petite Noiseuse Productions*)

"This is such an exciting time for GBCA" said Executive Director Jeannie Howe. "I am truly grateful to have this committed Board of Directors coming from such diverse backgrounds with wide ranging areas of expertise working on behalf of the region's cultural sector."

Wanda Draper was appointed Executive Director of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture on September 28, 2016. Wanda has extensive broadcast communications and management experience and came to the museum from WBAL-TV of the Hearst Corporation in a number of capacities including Director of Programming and Public Affairs. She began her career with Hearst Newspapers as a reporter for the Baltimore News American. She also worked at WJZ-TV and Maryland Public Television. A graduate of the University of Maryland School of Journalism, she also attended Johns Hopkins University Graduate School of Contemporary Studies and the University of Maryland School of Law. She has extensive management training at the Disney Institute, the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the National Association of Broadcasters.

John Hendricks has served as Dean of the Arts of St. Paul's School and St. Paul's School for Girls since 2014, leading the K-12 visual and performing arts department that is shared by the two schools. Prior to his move to Baltimore from Los Angeles, Hendricks was the President of the Board of the Southern California Vocal Association (SCVA), an organization with nearly 400 public and private school members, representing educators and students from nearly one-third of the state. In his years in education, Hendricks was also the Music Department Chair and Director of Choral Music at The Buckley School in Sherman Oaks, CA. John holds an undergraduate degree in Music from Stanford University and two Master's Degrees (M.M. and M.B.A.) from the University of Miami.

Garey Hyatt was born in Washington, DC and raised in Prince George's County, where he currently resides. He served as the chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Coppin State University from 2005 through



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2014, where he currently serves as Program Director of the Visual and Performing Arts Area. He received his undergraduate degree in speech and theatre at Bowie State University, a master's degree in theatre at North Carolina A & T State University and his doctorate degree in Theatre/Fine Arts with a focus in Arts Administration from Texas Tech University. He has held teaching posts at North Carolina A & T, College of Charleston, Florida A & M University, University of Louisiana-Lafayette, and Dillard University prior to his landing at Coppin State University. For the past 31 years, he has worked in higher education as an educator, producer, director, arts administrator and career mentor to a host of students.

Carla Du Pree is a literary artist, a state arts ambassador, and since, June 2016, the executive director of CityLit Project, a literary nonprofit that nurtures readers and writers throughout the region, whose 2017 festival won a Best of Baltimore Award. She is the recipient of a 2016 Rubys Grant in Fiction for her work in progress *Where the Spirit Meets the Bone*, and a 2017 Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and Poetry Foundation fellow. She was recently re-appointed for an unprecedented third term to the Maryland State Arts Council. She is the former Vice Chair, and currently chairs the MSAC Diversity Outreach Committee. She has done contractual work with the National Endowment for the Arts for the 2017/18 Big Read Selection Committee, among other assignments, and has served on the Maryland Humanities One Maryland One Book Selection Committee. She holds a Masters in Creative Writing from The Johns Hopkins University.

Monica Lopez-Gonzalez is an English-Spanish-French-Italian speaking Cognitive Scientist, Educator, Entrepreneur, Multidisciplinary Artist, Public Speaker, Science Communicator, Theorist, and Writer. Fascinated by the cognitive relationships between creative artistic, emotional, musical, and linguistic behavior she merges methods, data, and theory from the Sciences and Arts. She is the Co-Founder and Executive Scientific & Artistic Director of La Petite Noiseuse Productions, a company at the forefront of innovative Science-Art integration pushing the boundaries of empirical experimentation, artistic storytelling, and public engagement. Monica holds BA degrees in Psychology and French, and a MA and PhD in Cognitive Science, all from Johns Hopkins University, a Certificate of Art in Photography from Maryland Institute College of Art, studied piano performance at the Peabody Institute for twenty-five years and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine prior to co-founding her company.

Learn more about Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance's Board of Directors by visiting www.baltimoreculture.org/about/board-directors

About Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance

Founded in 2001, The Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA) is a membership and service organization that nurtures and promotes a vibrant, diverse, and sustainable arts and cultural community essential to the region's economic success and quality of life.

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