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PRESS RELEASE

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Governor Evers Appoints Kristin Tjornehoj to Wisconsin Arts Board, Reappoints Four Others

Governor Tony Evers has appointed **Kristin Tjornehoj** of *Hudson* to the Wisconsin Arts Board, which nurtures creativity, cultivates expression, promotes the arts, supports the arts in education, stimulates community and economic development and serves as a resource for people of every culture and heritage. Dr. Tjornehoj succeeds board member Mari Lindsey Schneider of Lancaster.

Governor Evers has also reappointed the following Arts Board members to new, three-year terms: **Jayne Herring**, *Kenosha*; **John W. Johnson**, *Madison*; **Brian Kelsey**, *Fish Creek*; and **William Mitchell**, *Lancaster*.

All these members join continuing members: **Marcela "Xela" Garcia**, *Milwaukee*; **Karen Ann Hoffman**, *Stevens Point*; **Susan Lipp**, *Madison*; **Tyler Marchant**, *Stevens Point*; **Dinorah Márquez Abadiano**, *Milwaukee*; **John H. Potter**, *Hudson*; **Lynn Richie**, *Land O' Lakes*; **Jennifer Schwarzkopf**, *Fitchburg*; **LaShawndra Vernon**, *Milwaukee*; and **Matthew Wallock**, *Madison*.

"The arts not only make our communities more beautiful and enjoyable, but they strengthen local economies, bring neighbors together, improve our kids' academic performance, and foster creativity for everyone," said Gov. Evers. "That's why I am thrilled to make these appointments to the Wisconsin Arts Board, which plays a critical role in our efforts to bolster the arts statewide."

The Wisconsin Arts Board is governed by a fifteen-member board appointed by the Governor to serve three-year terms. Board members are Wisconsin citizens recognized for their accomplishments in the arts, humanities, business, education, or public service. The board includes members from urban and rural areas across the state and from diverse racial, economic and cultural backgrounds. Board members set policy for the agency and approve funding recommendations made by the peer review panels. The members meet a minimum of four times per year, and all meetings are open to the public.

The Wisconsin Arts Board is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout Wisconsin. Since 1973, the Arts Board has supported artists and art organizations with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information on the Wisconsin Arts Board, please visit artsboard.wisconsin.gov. For information on our 50th Anniversary, please visit <https://wab50.com>.

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PO Box 8690, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8690

New Member of the Wisconsin Arts Board



Kristin Tjornehoj

Hudson

With more than three decades of experience in music education and community leadership, Tjornehoj brings a deep commitment to arts access and excellence to the Board. Tjornehoj served 32.5 years as Professor of Music at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls and worked in the Hudson Public Schools prior to that.

Tjornehoj also founded and currently works for St. Croix Sounds Music Society, leading concerts and events across the St. Croix Valley and beyond. As Director of the Three Rivers Concert Band, she forms, prepares, and guides an ensemble that tours Europe as an ambassador of music. Since 2014, she has coordinated historically informed, insight-driven performance trips and collaborations with partner organizations.

Tjornehoj's service extends beyond performance and education into health, arts infrastructure, and regional philanthropy. She has served on the HealthPartners Board of Directors since 2018 (including four years as Quality of Care Committee chair and current membership on the Finance Committee). A founding member of the Phipps Center for the Arts and ArtReach St. Croix, she contributed nearly two decades on the Phipps music committee. As a Community Impact Committee member for the St. Croix Valley Foundation and chair of the Music Education Committee she helps advance sustainable support for music programs. As an active Wisconsin School Music Association participant, she has held numerous committee and board roles. Tjornehoj brings her broad institutional knowledge and collaborative leadership to the Wisconsin Arts Board.

Reappointed Members of the Wisconsin Arts Board



Jayne Herring, Secretary

Kenosha

Jayne Herring is a fused glass artist who teaches fused glass workshops in southeast Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Her work can be found in Kenosha's "Lemon Street Gallery." She is the coordinator of the Racine Art Guild's Starving Artist Fair--the largest juried art fair in the tri-county area. Jayne is president of the Racine-Kenosha Master Gardeners Association and cheers on her fellow members' knowledgeable creativity in the garden.



John W. Johnson

Madison

John serves as Policy Advisor for the State Superintendent at the Department of Public Instruction for the State of Wisconsin. John has held leadership positions at the DPI for 23 years; previously serving as Deputy State Superintendent, director for Literacy, Mathematics and Academic Standards, and the Communications Director in the Office of the State Superintendent. As Deputy State Superintendent, he provided state-wide leadership for education and libraries and was the chief operating officer at the department. Through his leadership of state academic standards, John directed revision of standards in Arts and Creativity resulting in adoption of new sets of standards (K-12) in Art and Design, Music, Dance and Theatre. John served for over fifteen years in schools as a history, social studies, and special education teacher, learning coordinator, and assistant principal. He supervised the arts and music departments at West High School in Madison for five years. John taught graduate courses in Educational Leadership as an assistant professor and lecturer for ten years. In celebration of the Wisconsin Arts Board's 50th Anniversary, John began and co-led the Wisconsin Arts Celebration project for schools. He has served on numerous boards of directors, including for the WASCD (Wisconsin Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development), Wisconsin Literacy, Inc., and the Grace Presents concert series in Madison. He earned his undergraduate degree in history from Georgetown University, and his three graduate degrees, including a doctorate, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He lives in Madison with wife, and they have three daughters, all participating in the arts.



Brian Kelsey, Chairperson

Fish Creek

Celebrating his 19th season as Managing Director of Peninsula Players Theatre, Brian reflects on his extensive professional journey, which has taken him through various sectors across the United States and Europe. With expertise spanning operations, finance, marketing, and public relations, Brian serves as a versatile leader within the organization.

Brian's dedication goes beyond his role at Peninsula Players Theatre. He previously held the position of president at the Peninsula Arts and Humanities Alliance and currently contributes as a member of the Marketing Committee of the Women's Fund of Door County. Moreover, he currently chairs the Wisconsin Arts Board and actively participates in state-level tourism initiatives, serving on the Joint Effort Marketing Grant Committee. His contributions play a vital role in advancing cultural and tourism endeavors statewide.

As a journalism graduate from Marquette University, Brian takes pride in sharing his business acumen with his community, particularly acknowledging Peninsula Players Theatre for igniting his passion for the arts during his childhood.

Brian's tenure epitomizes a harmonious blend of professional expertise, community engagement, and personal fulfillment. His unwavering dedication is evident in his efforts to enhance both the arts and tourism within his community and across the state.



William Mitchell

Lancaster

Bill Mitchell is a multi-disciplinary artist whose sculptures, land installations and mixed media artworks have been exhibited in public spaces, galleries, and museums regionally and nationally. He is Gallery Director for Ripple Artspace in Platteville, WI a community run non-profit art center exhibiting artists from across the country. He lived and worked as an artist and landscape designer in Chicago until relocating to Grant County, WI in 2012, where he helped run an organic garlic farm with his wife Angie. With a passion for environmental design his woodworking company Readapted LLC produced sustainable garden furnishing for architects, designers, and builders for over a decade. Bill taught design at Northern Illinois University and landscape design at Northwestern University. He received a BFA in 1989 and MFA in 1993 from Northern Illinois University.