



**On the ballot for two-year terms:
Acceptance/Rejection of the Officer Slate:
Councilor-at-Large Positions: 1, 2, 3, 4**

Candidates for Councilor-at-Large

Desmond Bertrand-Pitts (incumbent), Executive Director, Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, Houston

Daniel Carey-Whalen (incumbent), Director, Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens, El Paso

John Handley, Executive Director, Museum of East Texas, Lufkin

Kim Mahan, Executive Director, Amarillo Museum of Art, Amarillo

Aubrey Nielsen, Collections Manager, Brownsville Historical Association, Brownsville

Kendal Smith Lake, Director of Communications, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth

Q1: Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors of the Texas Association of Museums?

Q2: What special skills and/or talents would you bring to TAM Council?

Desmond Bertrand-Pitts (Incumbent)



About

Position: Chief Executive Officer

Institution: The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum (BSNM) Center for African American Military History

City: Houston

Desmond Bertrand-Pitts is the Chief Executive Officer of The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum (BSNM) Center for African American Military History, a passion project of his grandfather turned National Institution, where he currently oversees all operations, programming and finances. Continuing the legacy, Desmond is responsible for jump-starting the BSNM venue rental program that now exceeds 200k in annual revenue in addition to managing a 1.5-million-dollar capital campaign project. He is also credited with creating a pleasurable museum experience by adopting policies and procedures that make the museum more operable. His initiatives include integrating technology, expanding educational programming, enhancing exhibitions, broadening donor reach, and giving an “in the now”

approach to history that’s attractive to young people. At the top of 2020 he along with his team launched The Path Forward \$5million dollar campaign to continue the renovation of the Houston Light Guard Armory (new home to BSNM) and advance our mission via programming, exhibitions, operations and outreach.

Desmond was born in Mamou, Louisiana but became a Houstonian at the age of ten. He is a product of The High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice in Houston, Texas. After graduating HS, he then went on to Xavier University of Louisiana only to return to Texas in 2005 and finish from Lamar University with a Bachelors of Arts and Science with a concentration in Biology. He then went on to earn his Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from American Intercontinental University graduating with a 4.0 GPA. Immediately following the MBA program, he completed his second Masters in Educational Leadership (M.Ed.) from Lamar University. Being a self-proclaimed career student, Desmond is now a candidate for an Doctorate in Education.

Q1

TAM is an amazing space for networking, professional growth and opportunity. TAM has the potential to be a powerhouse museum association and I want to be a part of continuing to build on that legacy. I am confident that I add a fresh perspective in the museum field that is not widely seen or recognized in Texas museums that will aid in the progression of the association.

Q2

Great insight for diversity, strategic direction, planning, fundraising, programming design and implementation, governance.

Daniel Carey-Whalen (Incumbent)



About

Position: Director

Institution: Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens

City: El Paso

Daniel Carey-Whalen has a B.A. in History from the University of Missouri- Kansas City and a Master of Arts in American Studies and Master of Urban Planning from the University of Kansas. He has worked as a Museum Educator at the Johnson County Museums of History, the Kansas Historical Society, and the Galveston County Historical Museum, and was the Director of Programs for the Kansas Humanities Council for three years. Carey-Whalen taught Humanities and Western Civilization for four years at the University of Kansas as well as museum

courses, including Exhibition Practices and Architecture, Urban Design and a Sense of Place, for four years at the University of Texas at El Paso. He was the Coordinator of Museum Studies and Public Culture in UTEP's Department of Art and supervised museum internships for those seeking the Minor in Museum Studies. Since September of 2017, he has been the Director of UTEP's Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens

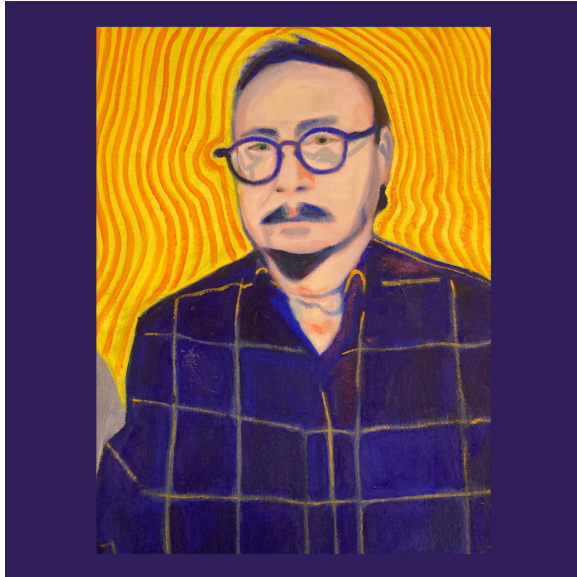
Q1

I am a firm believer in networking, collaboration, museum best practices, and professional development. TAM has provided all of these things to me personally since I moved to Texas in 2010 and to my students and now my staff. I have witnessed the benefits TAM offers in other institutions in El Paso and West Texas, and often forgotten part of this large state.

Q2

Museum education, museum administration, working with and inside Universities, teaching Museum Studies, DEAI

John Handley



About

Position: Executive Director

Institution: Museum of East Texas

City: Lufkin

Originally from the Pacific Northwest, John Handley grew up in a world filled with art and music. He attended the Mt. Baker School district, which had a robust art and performing arts program with a wide variety of coursework that included visits to museums. He studied art at Western Washington University and completed an MA in museum studies from John F. Kennedy University in San Francisco. While working at the Judah L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley in 1991, he delivered 175 Judaic artifacts to Berlin Germany for the exhibition, “Patterns of Jewish Life in the World.” He has worked

in several museums and galleries over the years, including the Magnes Museum, The Museum of Vision, and the Meridian Gallery. He later returned to graduate study completing an MA in theology and Christian studies from San Francisco Theological Seminary, and a PhD in art and religion from the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley. During his doctoral work, he befriended two eminent art historians: Peter Selz, who had originated from the Museum of Modern Art, and Jane Dillenberger. Both individuals impacted his work greatly. Along with Dillenberger, Handley co-authored the book, “The Religious Art of Pablo Picasso” in 2014. Upon completion of his doctorate in 2012, he joined the faculty at Stephen F. Austin State University as the director of the art galleries and accepted the position of executive director at the Museum of East Texas in October of 2020.

Q1

I have a life-long passion for museums, especially smaller organizations where staff get to wear a few different hats.

Q2

Curatorial work in both history and art; years of experience working with living artists; staff development.

Aubrey Nielsen



About

Position: Collections Manager

Institution: Brownsville Historical Association

City: Brownsville

Aubrey Nielsen is the Collections Manager at the Brownsville Historical Association (BHA). In her role she oversees registration, exhibition design & installation, learning and interpretation, and fundraising programs. Ms. Nielsen has worked at the BHA since 2016 as the former Programs & Events Coordinator. Aubrey received a BA in History from the University of Texas at Brownsville and a Masters in Museum Studies from the University of Oklahoma. In addition to her work with collections, Ms. Nielsen has facilitated the development of an internship program in collaboration with the University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley History Department, where students gain practical, hands-on experience working directly with museum artifacts and insight into the day-to-day operations of

managing a museum. Currently, Aubrey is part of a team that is tasked with the reinterpretation of a historic building to be opened as a textile museum in the Spring of 2022. She is passionate about professional development and the future of the museum sector, and plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in Museum studies from the University of Leicester.

Q1

Since starting the museum profession five years ago, I have evolved as a museum professional and welcome the opportunity to share the challenges, successes, and best practices with others in the field. Serving on the Board of Directors for the Texas Association of Museums would provide a different vantage point of both museums and museum leadership, which would serve beneficial to the organization and position I currently hold.

Q2

In being part of the TAM council, I would hope to demonstrate my dedication and passion for the museum profession. Working for a small to midsized museum, I have developed an array of skills from flexibility to versatility. Museums are living organisms, as a result, I have learned the culture of communication, adaptivity, and developed a forward-thinking mindset. I have dedicated my museum career to improving the overall perception of the profession and best practices. For this reason, I believe these traits and skills will lead to the continued growth and success of the mission and future of TAM.

Kim Mahan



About

Position: Executive Director

Institution: Amarillo Museum of Art

City: Amarillo

Kim earned her BBA from West Texas A&M University and has over 30 years' experience working in the museum field. She has been the Amarillo Museum of Art's Executive Director for 10 years, serving as Deputy Director for five years prior to that. With a proven record of successful leadership and stewardship of the museum for 15 years, Kim directs all of the daily operations including administration, exhibitions and educational programming in accordance with the AMoA's mission and within the framework of policies, plans and budgets approved by the Board of Trustees. She recently guided the museum through a successful AAM reaccreditation and has managed multiple renovation projects

including the creation of AMoA's new Art Space Interactive Gallery.

Q1

I have always had an interest in lifelong learning and see museums as an excellent way to achieve this goal. I also believe that museums are a valuable resource for making connections. In an increasingly isolated world, visiting museums and participating in their programming is an excellent way for people to connect with others in meaningful ways. Both TAM and AAM have helped me greatly during my 30 years in the museum profession. If I can give back by helping others in the field, I would be honored to serve.

Q2

During my 30 years in the museum profession, I have gained experience in every facet of museum work. My background includes management, budgeting, exhibitions, collections, education, marketing, fundraising, and facilities maintenance. I also have experience working with boards and volunteers, community partners, and donors. I know the importance of staying true to the organization's mission and to maintaining national standards and best practices in the field. I have experience in grant writing, the creation of strategic plans, and have participated in 3 successful AAM reaccreditation processes.

Kendal Smith Lake



About

Position: Director of Communications

Institution: Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

City: Fort Worth

Kendal Smith Lake has held the position of Director/Manager of Communication for the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth for the past 18 years.

She has a BFA in Design Communications from Texas Tech University and an MBA in Marketing from the University of Texas at Arlington. Before her current position at the Modern, she was part of the Marketing/Development team at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

She is married to a Fort Worth firefighter and they have a 14 year old son, and two dogs, 1

gecko, 1 snake, 1 turtle, and many fish. She loves to garden, read, paint, and make pottery.

Q1

I would like to be more involved in TAM as a way to provide professional, operational, and educational resources to Texas museums. I appreciate that TAM stays on the forefront of issues confronting organizations and the possibility to learn from and develop these programs is exciting. I think I can add expertise in communications as well as other aspects of TAM's mission. Being a part of the TAM board and working closely with TAM colleagues will add to my development as a museum professional.

Q2

- Community/audience/media relations
- Marketing including research, advertising, social media, website, publications
- Writing/editing
- Budget management
- Grant writing
- Strategic planning
- Project management
 - Project manager for American Alliance of Museums re-accreditation
 - Project manager for museum website redesign