

ONTARIO MUSEUM ASSOCIATION OMA BOARD NOMINATIONS SLATE 2025-26

With the majority of Board members indicating their interest in returning to the OMA Board of Directors in support of ongoing organizational redevelopment, the Chair is pleased to bring forward the following slate of OMA Board nominations for election by the OMA membership at the 2025 (online) Annual General Meeting, September 29, 2025.

OMA BOARD 2025-26



CATHY MOLLOY
PAST PRESIDENT; CHAIR, NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Cathy Molloy has retired from full time Museum work. Most recently she was the Interim Executive Director of the Ontario Museums Association. Cathy was the Interim Chief Curator, City of Toronto from February 2023 to April 2024. Cathy was born in Toronto and raised in Scarborough; this gave her an early appreciation of the beauty of diversity and the depth of learning that comes from close relationships with those from different backgrounds and cultures. For 15 years she worked as Director of Markham

Museum. Early on a new program direction was developed, one where the entire community feels welcome to tell their stories. Through the examination of basic human technologies that we have in common, Markham Museum creates a shared understanding of our past and present day. Cathy's educational background is a mix of archaeology and accounting, with work experience in both the corporate and museum world.

"Although we have come a very long way, Museums still struggle to validate their relevance to their community. Many government and business leaders recognize the benefits that Museums bring to quality of life and economic development. However, we need to continue to work with our stakeholders to ensure we stay connected to our communities."



MICHAEL RIKLEY-LANCASTER
PRESIDENT; CHAIR, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Born and raised in Chatham, Ontario, Michael Rikley-Lancaster has been the Executive Director/Curator of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum since July 1, 2007. He studied Fine Arts at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario, before receiving a diploma in Applied Museum Studies from Algonquin College in Ottawa.

He was the Assistant Curator at Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum, and Program Coordinator for Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations with the Canadian

Museums Association. Paving the way for safe museum spaces, Michael has empowered the MVTM to become Canada's first Rainbow Registered Museum and strives to create a more diverse and inclusive museum sector. With this goal in mind, he has served on numerous boards, committees, and councils across the tourism and heritage sectors, currently chairing the Heritage Advisory Committee for the Municipality of Mississippi Mills and Lanark County Arts and Heritage. As a Cultural Achievement Award recipient within the Municipality of Mississippi Mills, Michael has been consistently improving the Museum and enriching the local community by advocating for funding, inclusion, and partnerships. Viewing museums as forums for learning and unlearning, Michael is working towards a sector that is sustainable, equitable, and relevant to the communities it serves. Michael is a proud member of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

"With over 20 years of experience working in the field, mostly in a small-town museum setting, I would like to provide insight into the challenges of small museums and how they can be advocates, cultural hubs, and safe spaces for their communities. Funding and capacity-building are foundational to sustainable museums, while diverse and truthful storytelling are essential to relevant museums, which is why advocacy both for and within the museum sector is key to a progressive field. I am excited to explore a renewed definition and direction of museums at the OMA and support our members in growing with the sector."



KRYSTA LONGBOAT
VICE-PRESIDENT

"Sge:no! My name is Krysta Longboat, I am Mohawk Nation, Wolf Clan from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. I am the Manager of Education at the Woodland Cultural Centre. I graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University and Nipissing University in the Concurrent Education program and have worked in the museum education sector for 7 years and within the last year have moved over to the Woodland Cultural Centre to manage the education department."



JOE CORRIGAN
TREASURER; CHAIR, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joe Corrigan holds a Hons. B.A. in Economics and History from Glendon College of York University, a post diploma certificate in Museum Management and Curatorship from Fleming College and a certificate in Managing and Leading in a Municipal Environment from Loyalist College. Trained as a business systems analyst, Joe had a 24 year career in Branch, Regional and Head Office Management appointments with the National Trust Company and Scotiabank. Joe served as Museum Manager of Lang Pioneer Village Museum from 2003 to

2018. During his time at Lang, Joe also served as Board Chair of both the Kawarthas Northumberland Regional Tourism Organization (RTO8) and the Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development Corporation's Tourism Advisory Committee.

"I have worked in a variety of roles in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors over my 40-plus-year career. Many of the most rewarding experiences I've had have come since I joined the museum profession as Manager of Lang Pioneer Village Museum. I have had the opportunity to be involved in a number of rewarding initiatives which have had a lasting impact on the community, and this has inspired me to continue to take an active role in supporting the museum profession. I look forward to, once again, working with my colleagues on the OMA Board to support the industry in recovering from the challenges of the current pandemic."

DANIELLE MARSHALL
SECRETARY; CHAIR, GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE



With over 10 years of experience in the cultural heritage sector, Danielle has worked in various roles, including previously at the Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre as a Museum Curator. Danielle specializes in digitization, collections management, exhibit development, community collaboration and grant writing. Danielle holds a BA (Honours) in Classical Studies and a MA in Museum Studies.

"I believe that the Board has an opportunity to foster innovative, sustainable and dynamic solutions to the challenges that face the museum sector emerging from the realities of COVID-19. I am interested in promoting inclusivity and diversity within museums, ensuring that exhibits and programs reflect a broader range of perspectives and cultures. I believe strongly that people should be able to see themselves in museums."

BLAIR NEWBY
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE



Currently the Coordinator of Museum Programs for the Municipal Museums of Chatham-Kent, Blair Newby holds a Master of Museum Studies degree from the University of Toronto as well as an Honours BA in History from the University of Waterloo. To say that history has played an integral part in Newby's life would be an understatement. In fact, she has chosen to live by the nine words that her mother, the late Alice Newby, taught her, "WHEN YOU KNOW YOUR HISTORY, YOU KNOW YOUR GREATNESS". It was this passion for history that led Newby to work at the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum as a Historical Interpreter for six years. From 2010-2015 Newby was the Executive Director of the Chatham-Kent Black Mecca Museum. Following that, Newby worked in the Special Events Department at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto for several years before returning to the Chatham-Kent area. As custodians of the intellectual and cultural treasures left by our ancestors, Newby firmly believes that we have an obligation to safeguard our heritage and share it with the public.

"My goal through joining the Ontario Museum Association Board is to further my commitment to this while also having opportunity to provide a voice for smaller communities, smaller institutions as well as IBPOC museum workers. I look forward to learning from my colleagues and hopefully helping to further advocate for the importance of museums in our communities. Because I believe if I had that "A-HAH" moment regarding museums at such a young age, that through engagement and advocacy more and more youth can too. Which in turn will create museumgoers all over the province."



AMY PRILIKA
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

As the Deputy Director & CFO of the Bata Shoe Museum (BSM), Amy Prilika plays a key role at one of Canada's most esteemed educational and cultural institutions, overseeing both its financial and operational aspects. With a deep appreciation for the impact of cultural organizations, Amy is committed to shaping and enriching Canada's cultural landscape throughout her career.

A seasoned finance professional and a member of CPA Ontario, Amy brings over 15 years of expertise in performance management, financial planning, and corporate governance. Prior to joining the BSM, she served as Director of Finance and Administration at the Canadian Music Centre, where she successfully led finance teams across six regional offices.

In addition to her professional achievements, Amy is dedicated to community service. She serves on the Board of the Toronto Bach Festival and volunteers at the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Centre, further exemplifying her commitment to making a positive impact both inside and outside the workplace.



EVAN RANKIN
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

Evan is a partner in the Commercial Litigation group at Singleton Reynolds LLP. He specializes in professional liability and has extensive experience defending directors and officers of both for-profit and not-for-profit corporations, including a major national sports association. He has also served as counsel to the Litigation Management Committee of the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund. Evan has a deep affection for museums, having 'starred' in a McLean's magazine article about the Royal Ontario Museum at age 4. Evan is very interested in governance and, as a proud member of the LGBTQ2S+ community, having previously served on the governance committee of Pride Toronto.



**SHARIFA FOREMAN
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

Sharifa Foreman (she/her) is a seasoned Museum and Culture specialist with a wealth of experience that has shaped her into a dynamic professional. Over the years, she has honed a diverse skill set, starting with the development of educational programming for youth, children, and families, and expanding into collection management and independent curatorial projects. Sharifa has curated exhibitions for BAND (Black Artists' Network In Dialogue) Gallery, the Erland Lee (Museum) Home, and York University, showcasing her deep commitment to cultural enrichment.

Currently, Sharifa is embracing a new challenge as the Community Engagement and Marketing Coordinator at Glanbrook Community Services (GCS). This role has allowed her to further expand her abilities, taking on responsibilities such as planning GCS's two major fundraisers, leading marketing initiatives, and managing a team of volunteers and interns. She has seamlessly integrated her educational background into this position, creating fun and engaging bus trips, workshops, and programs that resonate with the community.

Sharifa's passion for the museum and culture sector continues to inspire those around her. She is a determined and creative individual, eager to help people discover the richness their community has to offer. Sharifa is a graduate of the University of Ottawa (B.A.), Sir Sandford Fleming College (Post Graduate), and York University (M.A.). She is excited about the future and looks forward to many more years of impactful work in the community and cultural sectors.



**EMILY STOVEL
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

After a career as an archaeologist with a specialization in the South-Central Andean region, I left academe to serve as a museum administrator in Chile and New Mexico. I have now returned home to Canada, excited to take on a newly created position as Curator and Manager of Culture just west of Ottawa. I am committed to rethinking how museums can change how then function inside and out to foster more community involvement and share decision-making.

"After leadership positions in the state museum association of New Mexico, I am interested in connecting with the pressing issues in the Ontario heritage sector. I have experiences elsewhere which might be helpful, while open to the unique important issues here in Ontario. There are so many changes through and post-COVID that we can only resolve together. I am particularly interested in working toward alternative financial models ... Rebuilding institutional budgets are key to this work, and that of seeking more diverse community connections, such as paid internships and co-directorships. I am also interested in regional collections management. There are so many similar collections in our province that it would be worthwhile to encourage the development of living history collections that spark more community connections and plan this work across regions. This will create space for new collections and new exhibit initiatives for community members as leadership diversifies. Finally, I am interested in sustaining and supporting the valuable work OMA already does to create collaborative training spaces for museum

sector workers. This is more important post COVID during which we saw such a significant restructuring of employment in our sector.'



DEANNA WAY
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

Deanna Way, serving as the Executive Director of the Quinte Museum of Natural History (QMNH) since July 2022, is an accomplished leader in the cultural and natural heritage sectors. With a Master of Library and Information Science from Robert Gordon University and a robust background in museum administration, Way brings a diverse and interdisciplinary approach to her role. Her expertise spans strategic planning, financial management, exhibit curation, and project management, underscored by a passion for community engagement and creating inclusive spaces.

Under Way's leadership, QMNH successfully executed a significant project funded by the FedDev Ontario Tourism Relief Fund, leading to the development of the "Diving Deep: A Tale of Whales Through Time" exhibit. This project not only elevated the museum's profile but also demonstrated Way's exceptional skills in leveraging funding opportunities, curating engaging content, and enhancing educational impact. Her efforts were recognized with the Ontario Museum Association's 2023 Promising Leadership Award of Excellence, highlighting her potential and contributions to the museum sector. Moving into 2024, the QMNH secured additional project funding from the FedDev Tourism Growth Program to develop an all new exhibit exploring climate change in the Canadian High Arctic.

Prior to her current role, Way contributed her skills to various institutions, including the Canadian Research Knowledge Network and Research Casting International, where she was involved in digital services coordination and fossil conservation, respectively. These experiences have equipped her with a comprehensive skill set, including heritage conservation, strategic leadership, interpretive planning, and exhibit development, making her an invaluable asset to QMNH and its mission to inspire discovery and stewardship of natural heritage.

Way's commitment to the museum's growth and sustainability is evident in her strategic vision and the successful management of key projects, positioning QMNH for continued success and community engagement.