

Meet the Olathe Public Art Committee



Chelsy Walker, Chair

Chelsy has spent the last 17 years of her career creating, educating, and advancing the arts. Her large outdoor sculptures can be found in Park City, Utah and Overland Park, Kansas. Walker has received several grants from the Office of Research and Creative Activities, as well as obtaining her Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in Sculpture from Brigham Young University. Currently she creates sculpture using aluminum, bronze, steel, and mixed media that centers on the family—past, present, and future. Chelsy can't seem to get away from oil painting, either, and has a work on permanent display in Olathe City Hall. She enjoys living with her husband, kids, and a huge dog named Flint. Walker has served with the Olathe Public Art Committee since 2017, and currently serves as Chair. She finds great joy volunteering in her community and in her church, and believes her best works of art are her son and daughter. Art for Chelsy is not something she does, but something she is. Art is her way of connecting, unifying, and celebrating the human family.



Ron Fredman

Ron passionately believes the arts define what is best about our community. He is a fan of classical music, dance and painting, an avid bibliophile and an envious appreciator of those who create artistic excellence. He enjoyed record-breaking seasons as chief fundraiser for the Kansas City Symphony, Kansas City Ballet, Houston Symphony, Phoenix Symphony and Sacramento Ballet. He most recently served as Chief Operating Officer for a national financial-advisory firm based in Overland Park, and retired in spring, 2022. He began as a sportswriter at The Kansas City Star, and continues to write and publish regularly. He has worked in advertising, management consulting and fundraising consulting. Ron studied political science at UMKC and served as an Adjunct Faculty at Lansing (MI) Community College. Ron has been a Scoutmaster since 1981 and is a recipient of the Silver Beaver, the highest recognition a local Boy Scout Council bestows on a volunteer. Ron chaired Dance/USA's National Development Directors & Staff Affinity Group, and has served on many nonprofit boards and advisory councils. Ron and his wife, Tricia, moved to Olathe in 2020.



Carisa McMullen

Graduating from Kansas State University in 1993, Carisa is now the principal of Landworks Studio, a landscape architecture firm in downtown Olathe. Her past positions in both the municipal and private sectors helped to shape her career prior to launching Landworks Studio in 2000. Starting her career working for the City of Wichita, Carisa assisted with the development and then implementation of their 1% for Art Program, seeing artists contribute to several public infrastructure projects. While bringing an approach steeped in midwest sensibility is how she operates, providing engaging and comfortable outdoor places for everyone is what motivates her. Carisa appreciates the variety of viewpoints clients, stakeholders and the public bring to every project and enjoys facilitating these opportunities early in every project. Carisa is currently serving on both the City of Olathe's Public Art Committee and the Johnson County Parks & Rec Public Art Committee.



Whitney Williamson

Whitney Williamson is the Registrar at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art and began her career at the former Gallery of Art at Johnson County Community College in 2001. Williamson manages all temporary exhibition and permanent collection records, loans and logistics. She oversees the care of the permanent collection and coordinates conservation of major sculptures and artworks. Williamson received her MA (2005) and BFA (2000) degrees in Art History from the University of Kansas. She currently serves on the Johnson County Parks & Rec Public Art Committee and the Olathe Public Art Committee.



Rashawn Griffin

After receiving a MFA from Yale University in 2005, Rashawn Griffin has exhibited in multiple solo and group exhibitions in the United States and abroad. Often pushing the boundaries between object and installation, his work challenges viewers to engage in their own past experiences when confronting his art. Living and working in Kansas, he was a 2005-2006 resident of the Studio Museum in Harlem's AIR program. Along with the 2008 Whitney Biennial, his work has been exhibited widely, including a two-person exhibition at the Studio Museum (RSVP), as well as "Freeway Balconies" at the Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin, Germany, and "THREADS: Textiles and Fiber in the works of African American Artists" at EK Projects in Beijing, China. He has had the subject of the solo exhibition at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art in Overland Park, Kansas, as well as recently participating in the exhibition "Minimal Baroque" at Rønnebæksholm in Næstved, Denmark. He is currently a board member of the Charlotte Street Foundation.



Brian Hanson

Brian has been a resident of Olathe, Kansas for over 30 years. He has a Graphic Design degree from Iowa State University in Ames, IA and has worked for advertising agencies, publishing firms and architecture/engineering companies throughout the Kansas City Metro. He is currently serving as Marketing Manager for Turner Construction Company in Kansas City which has built some of the most iconic structures on the Kansas City skyline. However, Brian is extremely passionate about Turner's community projects and volunteer activities that help to shape the neighborhoods where we live and work in. When he is not working, Brian likes to explore the mediums of photography, computer design and pencil/charcoal illustration. Brian is also involved in volunteer activities at his church and spends time with his two sons who grew up in Olathe School District #233. Brian also enjoys the outdoors, playing golf and walking the many trails and parks in Olathe. He is passionate about being a part of the mission of the Olathe Public Arts Committee to use art to build the overall identity of the City of Olathe.



Michelle Morris

Michelle has always had a love for creation. She has spent a lot of her life in the Olathe area and has created works of art around the city since before she was in Highschool, some are still on display today, 18 years later! Michelle's expertise is in rendering life like sketches from charcoal pastels. She has also spent many years as a graphic designer. You can find her works of art and logos at galleries, gyms, restaurants, office buildings and homes across the nation. She attended the School of Fine Arts at KU and got her degree with honors in Illustration from Utah Valley University. Her work has been published in magazines and has received various awards from art shows. Michelle has a huge belief in the power of service. She is thankful for the opportunity to give back and beautify the community.



Marian Coast

Marian is currently a resident in Olathe and has lived and raised her two children in both Olathe and Overland Park since 1986. A licensed Realtor since 1981, Marian and her team sell residential real estate in both Kansas and Missouri. Marian is passionate about homeowners' rights and serves on the Kansas Board of Trustees for the Realtors Political Action Committee—RPAC and was appointed as a State Director for the Kansas Association of Realtors, as well as, the Advocacy Committee for the Kansas City Regional Association of Realtors. Raised within a family of artists Marian has always been passionate about the visual arts and interior design. She enjoys life drawing, oil painting and visiting art galleries and museums in her spare time. Passionate about her faith, Marian actively serves on the Arts & Environment Committee and other groups at St. Michael the Archangel Parish. Serving on the Olathe Art Committee is an exciting opportunity to be active in helping develop the awareness for the arts in the Olathe community.



Bridget Taylor

Bridget Taylor, an accomplished Executive Director, Teacher, Show Director, Producer, Voice Teacher, and Entrepreneur, is the driving force behind Trilogy Cultural Arts Centre. A visionary leader with a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing from Northern Illinois University, Bridget founded Christian Youth Theater in 1999, growing it to two locations and 400 students. In 2004, she co-founded another non-profit theater school, and in 2009, founded Trilogy Cultural Arts Centre, a thriving institution offering comprehensive training in various arts disciplines.

Under the Taylor family's guidance, Trilogy hosts Broadway shows, original productions, and operates The Imaginarium, a retreat center. Bridget's commitment to youth leadership is evident in the "Artist Impact" program, emphasizing children as the hope of the future. Raised in the arts, Bridget's personal journey started at 7, inspiring her dedication to providing performing arts opportunities. Beyond Trilogy, she engages in theater mission camps and contributes to the Olathe Arts Committee, exemplified by her role in producing "Kidtopia" at The Olathe Arts Festival. Bridget, alongside her family, has been a transformative figure in Olathe for 24 years, fostering artistic expression and personal growth for countless children.