

Orange County
Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Council
MEMBER BIOS 2017-2018

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Sara Segal, Chair*

**Chair, Advocacy Committee*

Even as a midcentury small city, Orlando offered rich cultural experiences. By the time she left to earn her BA at Brown University, Sara Segal was hooked on the arts. Creative fields drew her to marketing and film production. Ms. Segal currently divides time between work at UCF's Flying Horse Editions fine arts press and research studio, and service to The Howard Phillips Center for Children & Families and the Town & Gown Council at UCF (past chair of both councils). She is a former board member of the Orange County League of Women Voters, the Maitland Art Center and the Winter Park Public Art Advisory Board.



Dr. Rick Schell, Vice Chair*

**Chair, Funding & Standards Committee, and Review Panels for Cultural Tourism and Cultural Facilities Funding*

John "Rick" Schell earned his BA from Drew University and his MA and Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University, where his dissertation "Shelley and Decorum" was supervised by Dr. W. Paul Elledge. Dr. Schell is the Vice President and Chief of Staff at the University of Central Florida, where he was the chair of the English Department from 1987 until 1997. Dr. Schell also is associated with the Orlando Shakespeare Theater.



Cecelia Bonifay

A managing partner for Akerman LLC, Cecelia Bonifay was the president of the board of Crealdé School of Art, where she is distinguished as the longest-serving board member for the Winter Park community school for the visual arts. She has served as a member of United Arts of Central Florida's Board of Directors; on the executive committee and board member for the Orlando EDC, and chaired the Economic Strategy Committee. She is the past co-chair of the Urban Land Institute's Climate Change, Land Use and Energy Committee, and she currently serves as the Chair of the ULI Central Florida District Council. She is a frequent speaker on the topics of land use and growth management, development incentives, green energy and climate change, and green building and LEED certification. Ms. Bonifay also is a board member of the

Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission. She has been recognized by *Chambers USA*, *The Legal 500*, *The Best Lawyers in America*, and *Florida Super Lawyers*, and she is a former recipient of the *Florida Real Estate Journal's* "Top Women in Commercial Real Estate" award.



Karen E. Climer

A native of Orlando, Karen Climer works as a licensed real estate instructor. Previously, she was an independent grant writer and fundraising consultant with many arts clients including the Martin County Arts Council, Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra and Orlando Ballet. She served for two years as a grant review panelist for the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs. Ms. Climer also served on the board for the Negro Spiritual Scholarship Foundation and chaired the City of Orlando Citizen Review Board, and currently serves on the Orange County Children and Family Services Board. Ms. Climer holds a Bachelor of Music in percussion performance from the University of Alabama and an MBA from Rollins College.



Sharon Fenwick

After moving to Mount Dora in 1998, Sharon Fenwick became involved in the community by becoming a guardian ad litem for the Department of Children and Families and joining the Women's Committee of Fine Arts. Funding and promoting artists and their art presented the opportunity to serve her new community. A relocation to Apopka in 2005 led to involvement in the Foliage Garden Club of Apopka and serving as president from 2013 to 2015; overseeing the annual fundraiser for beautification projects and scholarships for local high school students. In 2012 and 2013, she served as vice president for the Northwest Orange Republican Women's Club. With a background in retail design, she has pursued her passion for the arts through extensive travel.



Hal Kantor*

Recently recognized as one of the "Must-Know Contacts" by *Florida Trend Magazine*, Hal Kantor has long been a leader in the Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed's real estate group. Hal has been advising local, national and international clients in the areas of land use approvals, real estate transactions and finance since 1972. Specifically, Mr. Kantor concentrates on land use and zoning, developments of regional impact, land use and property rights litigation, administrative law, real estate transactions, development and finance, environmental law, hotel and resort development, and timeshare services. He has represented private and public sector clients for a wide array of land use approvals throughout Central Florida, including serving as lead counsel on more than 50 developments of regional

impact. Mr. Kantor also has served as special counsel for several municipalities including lead counsel on such projects as the Orlando Downtown DRI and the Orlando Arena DRI. He devotes much of his personal time to arts and cultural organizations, having served as chairman of the board for WMFE/90.7 Public Broadcasting, the Orlando Museum of Art and United Arts of Central Florida. He has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Tree of Life Award.



Evelyn Martinez*

Evelyn Martinez is the Human Resources Manager for Bongos Cuban Café at Disney Springs, owned by Estefan Enterprises Inc. Besides her 25-plus years of work experience in the human resources field as a trainer and event coordinator, she volunteers her time on committees and task forces that foster education, mentorship and opportunities for Hispanics/Latinos. Her passion for arts, culture and heritage has led to her involvement with the Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Council, arts and cultural event committees and special arts and entertainment projects. As an original member of Borínquen Dance Theatre in Rochester, New York, she had the privilege to perform at various venues that gave her the opportunity to showcase the richness of Puerto Rican folklore & Afro-Caribbean dances incorporating contemporary technique and

storytelling. Mrs. Martinez's present and previous board and committee contributions include: HCCMO Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando, CAC Children's Advocacy Center and Jr. Achievement Program, IBERO-American Action League, Girl Scouts of America, Women of Distinction, Compeer Inc., United Way-Hispanic Leadership Program, Latinas Unidas & STEM.



Shelby Norwich

With a passion for people and a profound interest in the art of negotiation, Shelby Norwich has been in real estate for more than 16 years and has been one of the top producers at Olde Town Brokers for the past six years. Playing a major role in generating substantial growth to downtown Orlando, she was involved in the development of three high-rises from the ground up. She contributed to the growth of ZOM Residential, where she was the head leasing agent for The Waverly on Lake Eola before she moved on to work for Historic Creations and was the Director of Sales for the luxury condo buildings The Sanctuary and Star Tower. Born and raised in Cocoa Beach, Ms. Norwich earned her BA in Organizational Communications from the University of Central Florida, and her Masters in Liberal Studies from

Rollins College. Ms. Norwich is a huge supporter of local artists and the local art scene – serving on the Downtown Arts District Board (DAD) for six years. She is also a Circle Member for the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and has been on the Runway to Hope committee, where she assists local children and their families who have been impacted by pediatric cancer. She enjoys surfing, bowling, traveling, and most of all, spending quality time with her two adorable pugs, Joshe and Sake.



Patrick Noze*

**Chair, Public Art Review Board*

Born in Haiti in a Province call Jérémie “City of Poets” in December 1962, Patrick Noze began painting and sculpting at the age of 5 when his father, Robert Noze, a sculptor, presented him with a box of oil paints and brushes. From that day, Mr. Noze has never stopped painting and sculpting, a tradition he hopes to pass on to his children, all of whom demonstrate a passion and gift for fine arts. In 1976, Noze entered the United States and began studying art, taking private lessons at the Brooklyn Museum and the School of Visual Arts in New York, where he concentrated on anatomy and

color techniques. In 1979, he entered Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School with art as his major and a focus in art history. At graduation, he received the "Delano Medal of Honor," with a full scholarship to Cooper Union. He instead attended Pratt Institute School of Art and Science, majoring in fine arts with a minor in education.



Rick Richbourg

Rick Richbourg is a Florida native, a graduate of Berklee College of Music, and holds degrees in both business and music from Pensacola State College. Mr. Richbourg performs locally in the R&B band Groove Therapy. He was a member of the internationally acclaimed Mantovani Orchestra, that tours internationally, and a former music director for 1960s artist Johnny Thunder. Mr. Richbourg has appeared on countless recordings, including his own 2001 release, *Life Is for the Living*. He continues his love for music as a music educator and guitar instructor. Mr. Richbourg is a past president of the Orlando Jaycees and a current member of the Orlando

Jaycee Colonels. He is the former chair and current member of the Lake Holden Water Advisory Board and is also a former scuba instructor, dive master and cave diver. He is the founder of Adelphi Agency, an internet consultancy, providing web-based solutions since 1995.



Melvin Rogers

Melvin Rogers has been in education for 30 years. Receiving both his B.S. and M.S. from the University of Nebraska, Mr. Rogers has been working for the University of Central Florida for nearly 20 years, where he is now the Associate Dean for the College of Health and Public Affairs. He also has worked for Chrysler, Ford and the Kennedy Space Center. Mr. Rogers currently serves as Chairman for the Orange County Citizens Commission for Children Advisory Board. Other Board service includes Seminole Legal Aid and United Arts of Central Florida.



Becky Roper*

**Chair, Blockbuster Committee*

As a fifth generation Central Floridian, Becky Roper has exhibited longtime dedication and commitment to the community. From her successful entrepreneurial ventures currently as owner and operator of Pilars Martini, the place for “mixology, music, martinis, and more,” and The Co-Op Ballroom in the Roper Garden Building, a multipurpose community events venue adjacent to the Garden Theatre. Ms. Roper is a resident of Winter Garden, where she prides herself in her role as a leader and investor in the West Orange County community. She was the Founding President of Garden Theatre Inc., where she serves as an Emeritus Trustee. Ms. Roper has served on a variety of other boards, including Trinity Preparatory School and YMCA Camp Wewa. She also presides over the Roper Family Foundation.



Commissioner Jennifer Thompson, District 4

A native of Orange County, Florida, Commissioner Thompson has served on the Orange County Board of County Commissioners since 2010. She served as Vice-Mayor in 2012 and currently represents Orange County on Metro Plan, Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Council, Arts and Cultural Affairs Blockbuster Committee, Orange County Research and development Advisory Board and the Central Florida Expressway Authority Board. Comm. Thompson also is a small business owner, and has owned and operated her medical marketing consulting firm since 2006. She and her team focus on guiding independent physician groups throughout the United States on attracting and retaining patients. Comm. Thompson is often recognized for her civic involvement, business acumen and pragmatic approach to getting things done.

***Current and/or Past Chairs**