

Orange County
Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Council
MEMBER BIOS 2019-2020
Updated 4.10.2019



Dr. Rick Schell, Chair*

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 currently Vice President Emeritus at the University of Central Florida, having returned in fall 2018 to the faculty of the English Department, which he chaired from 1987 until 1997. Dr. Schell also is associated with Orlando Shakes.



Commissioner Emily Bonilla

Elected in 2016 to the Orange County Board of County Commissioners representing District 5, Commissioner Emily Bonilla earned her BA in English from the University of Central Florida in 2003 and a MS in Internet Marketing from Full Sail University in 2010. She founded Save East Orlando in 2013, and co-founded and served as acting chair for Save Orange County until 2015. Commissioner Bonilla is an advocate of conserving Orange County’s natural and economic resources.



Cecelia Bonifay, Vice Chair

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

A managing partner for Akerman LLC, Cecelia Bonifay is president emeritus of the board of Crealdé School of Art, distinguished as the longest-serving board member for the Winter Park community school for the visual arts. Ms. Bonifay serves 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. Ms. Climer served for two years as a grant review panelist for the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs. She 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.



Patty Cloy

With a BA in Education from the University of South Florida and a MA in Educational Leadership from Stetson University, Patty Cloy is a former art instructor with Pinellas County Schools and Orange County Public Schools. Ms. Cloy's educational background includes museum experiences, contests, murals and staging decorations. In her service on the Arts and Letters Committee of the Orlando Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., she has spent the last five years developing projects that included community murals, art festivals, art backpacks and literary events. Ms. Cloy is experienced in working collaboratively with diverse groups and establishing ongoing relationships to promote the arts in the community. She has served on the Community Development Advisory Board and the Neighborhood Grants Advisory Board.



Julie Coleman

The founder and president of the Orlando School of Cultural Dance for 28 years, Julie Coleman wrote grants and administered programs for area children, and showcased their talents in the annual Cultural Dance Showcase at what is now Bob Carr Theater. She collaborated with the Department of Juvenile Justice and the City of Orlando to bring arts education to children who would otherwise not have had the opportunity to experience the arts. In addition to running the school, Ms. Coleman taught dance and African history as an adjunct professor at Valencia College and lectures/demonstrates dance for students of Orange County Public Schools.



Gwen Covington

An Orlando native, Gwen Covington is a recording artist, realtor and retired public administrator for Miami-Dade County. As CEO of Entertainment Galore, LLC, Ms. Covington offers consulting services for music publishing and concert productions, having worked with The Ojays, Najee, Denyce Graves, Pastor Shirley Caesar and BeBe Winans. She also offers special event support for clients including NFL Superbowl XXIX, BET TV, The Miami Heat, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce National Convention, Miami/Goombay Festival, ZORA! Festival and FAMU Orange Blossom Classic. She partners with her husband, Will, a record producer and Grammy Award-winning drummer, for the *So You Want Your Name in Lights* Youth Summer Music Camp. Ms. Covington loves sharing music industry updates and positive community news as a contributing writer for *The Orlando Times* and other publications, and she is a former co-host at radio station

WOKB-1680 AM. She is a Jones High School alumni and an active member of its Historical Museum Society. She holds a BS in accounting from Florida Memorial University and an MBA from the University of Miami. Her many accolades include the Exemplary Distinguished Honoree in Sight and Sound Leadership Award from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education in Washington, D.C.



Samí Haiman-Marrero

Samí Haiman-Marrero is the President & CEO of Urbander, a Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) solution-based agency that assists the corporate, nonprofit and government sectors overcome their diversity and inclusion challenges. She is one of the nation's leading business development and marketing experts, specializing in the U.S. Hispanic market. Ms. Haiman-Marrero earned a master's degree in Communications from the University of Puerto Rico. She has been interviewed by international, national and regional media regarding the Latino experience in the U.S., including *The Wall Street Journal*, *El Nuevo Día* (Puerto Rico) and *Huffington Post*. Named one of the 25 Most Influential Hispanics in Central Florida in 2016 by *Visión Magazine*, Ms. Haiman-Marrero has served on the boards for Visit Orlando, United Arts of Central Florida, the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund's TAC committee (Orlando Chapter), the University of Central Florida's Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) Community Engagement Council, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando's Supplier Diversity Council, and as the President of the Hispanic American Professional and Business Women's Association (2015-

2017). Since 2014, Ms. Haiman-Marrero has facilitated the *Talleres de Bienvenida* (Welcome Workshops), a free admission program she cofounded to help recent arrivals from Puerto Rico and other Spanish-speaking countries better navigate their new lives in Central Florida and integrate into the U.S. workforce without abandoning their cultural values.



Hal Kantor*

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. Mr. Kantor has been advising local, national and international clients in the areas of land use approvals, real estate transactions and finance since 1972. 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.



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. Ms. Norwich 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.



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.



Sara Segal*

**Chair, Advocacy Committee*

Even as a midcentury small city, Orlando offered rich cultural experiences. By the time Sara Segal left to earn her BA at Brown University, she 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.



Keith Smith

Originally from Rochester, New York, Keith Smith has resided in Winter Garden for the past 20 years. Currently in his 27th year with Disney, he is the Senior Vice President and Chief Talent Officer for Partners Federal Credit Union, which serves all employees of The Walt Disney Company. Mr. Smith holds a BA in Theatre, a Masters in Human Resources from Rollins College and is a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR). With training in piano, dance and acting, Mr. Smith has extensive expertise in live theatre and has directed, produced or performed in over 50 theatrical productions over the past 30 years. His passion for volunteering has earned him the Presidents Volunteer Service Award over 10 times. He is a volunteer guest lecturer at the Rosen School of Hospitality and is actively involved in nonprofit board leadership. Mr. Smith currently serves as immediate past president for the Garden Theatre. Past positions include Executive Director of Miss

Florida's Outstanding Teen Pageant, Board of Directors for the Miss Florida Pageant and Executive Director and cofounder of the Miss City Beautiful Scholarship Pageant in Orlando, the local pageant of Miss America 2004, Ericka Dunlap.

****Current and/or Past Chairs***