



Talbot County Arts Council

**Biographical Roster of
Board of Directors and Executive Director**

Fiscal Year 2017

TALBOT COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

Board of Directors for FY 2017

PEGGY J. FORD, PRESIDENT

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Peggy Ford was born in Harford County and graduated from Loyola University in Baltimore, where she earned teaching certificates in elementary education, special education, and early childhood education. She began her teaching career at Southwestern High School in Baltimore City then moved to the Eastern Shore in 1977 to work at the Benedictine School in Ridgely. After the birth of her son Ben in 1983, she began working in the Talbot County School System and subsequently taught in its high school, middle school, and elementary schools. In 2004, Peggy was awarded the Talbot County Public School's Unsung Hero Award. She was the cultural arts coordinator for the Chapel District Elementary School in Cordova where she has coordinated the arts enrichment assembly programs for almost 20 years. Now retired after 37 years of teaching, she shows her interest in the Talbot County community by volunteering for the Waterfowl Festival, Society of St. Vincent De Paul, CASA of the Mid-Shore, Plein Air Easton, Talbot Hospice's Festival of Trees, First Night Talbot, Chesapeake Film Festival, Easton's RTC Task Force, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, and Care Packs. In addition, Peggy formerly instructed senior water exercise through Chesapeake College and currently is a water fitness instructor at the YMCA. She is also a member of two book clubs and enjoys taking ballroom dance lessons with her husband, John. She joined the Arts Council board in 2011 and became board secretary in 2012, treasurer in 2013, and president in 2016.

ROBERT J. FORLONEY, VICE PRESIDENT

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Robert Forloney was raised in Rhode Island and moved to New York City where he received a BFA from Parsons School of Design, Art Education K-12 certification from Bank Street College of Education, and later a masters in Humanities and Social Thought from New York University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. He used his experience in installation art as the display manager for Urban Outfitters in Greenwich Village and then as the production coordinator at Barney's New York, developing and creating its world famous window displays before transferring his skills to the museum field. For almost 20 years he worked as a teacher for the New York City Museum School as well as an artist, educator, administrator and consultant at institutions such as the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Museum of the City of New York, the Morgan Library, American Museum of Natural History, South Street Seaport Museum, and the Museum of Modern Art. He is actively engaged in the museum community to strengthen the field and promote institutional collaboration. Working with the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art, he created a group called the Museum Access Consortium who act as advocates for increased awareness of visitors' needs and seek to improve accessibility in terms of both the physical environment and programming. Robert also worked with the Center for Arts Education's peer advisory panels assessing proposals for the Parents as Arts Partners grant program and conducting art teacher workshops on visual literacy. For the past three years he has served on the Traditional and Folk Arts review panel for the Maryland State Arts Council, assessing grant proposals from statewide organizations. He has been on the board of the Arts Council since 2013 and became secretary in 2014 and vice president in 2016.

SANDY BEMIS, SECRETARY

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Sandy Bemis was born in Minneapolis but raised in Southern California, where she graduated from St. Bernardine's High School, continued her education at the Los Angeles campus of Immaculate Heart College, and earned a degree in elementary education from San Diego State University. She taught in the San Diego school system until a

daughter was born, followed by a son two years later. A job move took her and husband Dick to Ohio and a small farm where she began her career as a hobby farmer, mother, crafter, sewer, quilter, and finally shop owner with two friends. They taught classes in all forms of quilting and fabric related decorative pieces. During the Ohio years she spent a number of years in the school system as a learning disability tutor. Their move to Easton in 1987 brought time to restore an old house in downtown Easton, and for Sandy to join with 15 women to form the organization called Bayside Quilters, which is now 195 members strong. She has served it in many capacities including two years as president as well as on the membership and hospitality committees. A small group called the Fiber Arts Bee has been a source of great artistic exploration through their creative and adventurous work with paint, fabric, and other fiber mediums. Sandy has taught quilting at Lilies of the Field, the Easton YMCA, and through Bayside Quilters. In 2013 she was chairman of A Quilted Garden, which showed the creative work of our local quilters during a three-day show in two locations in Oxford. For 10 years she has also worked at a studio called Fancywork Finishing, which designs and paints needlepoint canvasses commissioned by churches across the United States. She joined the board in 2014 and became secretary in 2016.

CAROL GORDEAN, TREASURER

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Carol Gordean is an artist who was born and raised in Los Angeles. She received a BA from the University of Oregon in sociology and spent a year in Florence studying Italian at the accademia d'artei. She became a social worker for the Department of Social Services in Los Angeles and was involved with the Pacific Chapter of the United Nations Association in various capacities including volunteer, program coordinator, and board member. She also volunteered at the California Self-Help Center at UCLA and became a member of the prestigious Artist Co-Op 7. She and her husband moved to the Eastern Shore in 1997, where she soon became one of the founders of the Talbot Cinema Society and still acts as its treasurer. Carol believes that one of the functions of art is to renew and reinvestigate our perception of the world. The past 40 years have been a continuous journey of experimentation and development working in a multitude of media from basket weaving to woodworking. Her principal present focus as an artist is on painting and mosaics. She joined the board in 2013 and became treasurer in 2016.

DIRCK K. BARTLETT

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Dirck Bartlett was born and raised in Baltimore, although his family has roots on the Eastern Shore dating back more than 300 years. He graduated from The Gilman School in Baltimore in 1982 and earned a BA from Denison University in 1986. That same year he helped start a family-owned business, Ilex Construction & Development, Inc., which builds and renovates architect-designed houses in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and West Virginia. In 1994, he also helped start a family-owned woodworking and cabinet company in Easton called Ilex Woodworking, Inc. In 1998 he and wife Christy and two children moved to Talbot County. He was elected to the County Council in 2006, 2010, and again in 2014, while still employed by Ilex Construction and Woodworking, Inc. His interests include raising teenage twins Peter and Katherine, outdoor and water sports, sailing, hunting, and not-very-successful fishing. He was formerly president of the Talbot Preservation Alliance, Citizens for Sound Growth, and the Talbot County Historical Trust, senior warden of Christ Church Episcopal in Easton, and treasurer of the Academy Art Museum. He has also been as a member of the boards of directors of Historic Easton and the Talbot Historical Society. He became the County Council representative on the board of the Arts Council in December 2014.

ANN H. FARLEY

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Ann Farley of St. Michaels has a BS with honors in biology from Duke University and an MBA from Florida State University. She and husband Greg moved to the Eastern Shore in 2003, where daughter Lauren was born a year later. Previously she worked as a business consultant, educator, and environmental advocate. Ann's most recent work has been facilitating arts programs in the local community. With a big-picture view that encompasses local arts organizations, local children's needs and interests, and an understanding of how various groups can work together, Ann has brought partners together to leverage resources to provide better and richer arts experiences in our community. She organizes cultural arts performers for local schools and coordinates and

promotes a variety of local performing arts events with Carpe Diem Arts. As an artist herself, Ann enjoys creating whimsical works inspired by her small town and her love for all things tropical. Her three-dimensional paper designs of bright colors and fun shapes are all individually cut by hand. Ann works in cut paper, collage, mixed media, glass fusing, and has recently taken classes in mosaics, glass blowing, batik, and zentangle. She has been a member of the St. Michaels Art League, and now belongs to RiverArts in Chestertown and the Dorchester Center for the Arts in Cambridge. She has exhibited in numerous local and regional shows and her artistic banners have hung in downtown St. Michaels for five years and in Easton for one. Her work can be found at Candleberry Gallery in St. Michaels, The Green Phoenix and Le Hatchery in Easton, and RiverArts Gift Shop in Chestertown. Ann's background is in science and business, but she's always been an artist at heart. She joined the board in 2016.

STEPHANIE HANDY

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After completing her studies at Maryland Institute College of Art, Stephanie began her career at Lord and Taylor in New York City as an assistant buyer. She eventually became a buyer for Allied Marketing in NYC. After a move to Chicago with her husband Alex, she was a freelance tromp de l'oeil painter with works published in many national magazines. Upon moving to the Eastern Shore in 1983, she became art director for The Handy Group, Inc., an advertising and marketing agency she co-owned with her husband. Their for-profit work was combined with pro bono contributions for such non-profits as Talbot County YMCA, United Fund, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Talbot County, Habitat for Humanity, CAPA (Community Alliance for the Performing Arts), Tred Avon Players, Hospice of Talbot County, Eastern Shore Chamber Music Festival, Talbot Historical Society, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. She and Alex have directed and produced many theater productions for the Tred Avon Players, Community Alliance for the Performing Arts, and Habitat for Humanity's '96, '98, and '99 Follies. Stephanie was an artist for the Festival of Trees, has been chairman of Christmas Collections at the Academy Art Museum where she is a member, she is a past president of the Parents Association of Country School. In 2012 she completed service as board member and president of CASA of Talbot and Dorchester Counties. Stephanie is a plein-air painter who studied under many prominent artists, but now paints for her own enjoyment. She joined the board in 2012, became secretary in 2013, and was president during 2014-2016.

JAY HARFORD

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Jay Harford was born in Arden, Delaware, which was founded as an art colony. He has a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Delaware and a master's in electrical engineering from the University of Rhode Island—where he has been elected to the Engineering Hall of Fame. He lived in Massachusetts, Utah, and Virginia before moving to the Eastern Shore in 2004. In his professional life he was senior engineer for Edgerton Germeshausen & Grier, where he designed the world's largest seismic profiling system for oil exploration and studies of plate tectonics. He also designed equipment for and worked with Jacques Cousteau. He then became vice president of engineering for Astronautical Research, where he designed the underwater lighting and photographic system for the Glomar Challenger which raised the sunken Russian submarine. Finally, he was senior marketing manager for IBM Space Computer Systems. He is author of a chapter in the McGraw Hill *Handbook of Underwater Engineering*. He has been an active in several art forms, including singing in an all male choir, working in pottery, stained glass, and set design, and acting in a number of Shakespeare productions. His musical instrument is the flute, and he has played with the Rusty Musicians program of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the Bermuda Symphony. He is a member of the Mid-Shore Community Band and its board of directors. He is also a board member of the Mid-Shore Symphony Society, which brings the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra to the Eastern Shore. As a photographer, his area of principal interest and specialization is photos with humor, and his work has won prizes in local and regional contests. He joined the board in 2016.

RICHARD L. HOTT

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Dick Hott was born in California and raised in Colorado. After serving four years in the U.S. Coast Guard, he taught ballroom dancing and served as dance director for the Arthur Murray Studio in Long Beach, California. He also danced professionally with the Dick Taylor Dancers in Los Angeles. He earned a business degree at Long Beach

State and began a 30-year career with IBM, working in sales and as branch manager at numerous locations including the Manhattan Branch Office in NYC. Dick and his wife Elizabeth (Beth) have been married 44 years and they have two children—Christopher who is an IT specialist in Richmond, and Amy who is an Assistant State’s Attorney in Howard County. They have six grandchildren who are truly grand. Dick and Beth enjoy gardening, travel, theatre, reading, and membership in the Talbot Dance Club. Dick plays golf at Hog Neck in Talbot County and sings in the Bay Country Chorus and the Four Decades Quartet. In his previous six years on the Arts Council, he served as board secretary and vice president. After a one year absence, he rejoined the board in 2011

NANCY S. LARSON

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Nancy Stoughton Larson was born in Evanston, Illinois, and raised in Milwaukee. The arts were always important in the Stoughton household—symphony, theater and museums. She studied both piano and clarinet during her school years, when she was also an apprentice for a professional summer stock theater company. She earned a degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and she worked in that field for 20 years, ending as a director of nursing services. The one constant during these years was her love of music, and when husband, Bruce was transferred from the Northwest to the East Coast she decided to make a career change. Nancy earned a BA in music history and literature and a MS in music education from Towson University, where she afterward taught for 12 years as an adjunct faculty member. One of her most popular teaching assignments was *Women in Western Music*, and she also taught the *History of Baltimore through the Arts* and an *Introduction to Music History*. The Larsons moved to Easton in 2013 and she has since been heavily involved with Chesapeake Music, primarily as co-chair of the International Chamber Music Competition Committee. She is delighted that this involvement as it allows her to support marvelous, talented young musicians as they make their way in the very competitive field of classical music. She is well aware of this challenge as son Eric has traveled this road and is now a member of the Houston Symphony. Nancy and Bruce are exploring all the artistic riches this region has to offer. They have also discovered curling—the “hottest sport on ice”—belong to the Chesapeake Curling Club. She joined the board in 2016.

CINDY REED

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Cindy Reed is a Long Islander who received a B A in psychology from Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. and an MA in counseling from The George Washington University. She taught special ed for a combined 30 years in Prince George’s, Talbot, and Caroline Counties. Though she has a long family history in Talbot County, their love of sailing brought Cindy and husband Jim to Oxford. They dinghied ashore in 1982 and have been full-time residents ever since. She has been active with Tred Avon Players (onstage, backstage and 12 years on the Executive Board) and the Oxford Community Center (10 years on the board, as a continuous volunteer and, most recently, her sixth stint as Art Chair of the annual show Fine Arts @ Oxford). Cindy is on the board of the Mid-Shore Symphony Society, wears several hats for both Plein Air-Easton! and Talbot Hospice Foundation, and is a sometime-oil painter and a fulltime cat-lover, most especially Cody and Wyatt. She joined the board in 2013.

JOHN E. ROBINSON

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John Robinson is a retired executive director of the Civil Service Commission for Fairfax County Virginia. He worked for Fairfax County for 24 years before retiring and moving to St. Michaels 10 years ago. John is a certified labor arbitrator and still serves as a neutral panel member for the Fairfax County Public Schools. Following high school, John served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1968—including assignments to the 1st Special Forces Group in Okinawa and the 82d Airborne Division in Vietnam. After military service, he earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Edinboro College in Pennsylvania and did graduate work at American University in Washington, D.C. John’s photographic experience started with the Firstlight Workshops held in Wyoming, the Chesapeake Bay,

and France. His work has been published in the American Airline's *Celebrated Living* magazine and *American Photo*. One of his photographs also won first place in the professional category at the Chestertown Arts Festival. He also enjoys playing golf, although he will never master the craft. He joined the board in 2014.

PATRICK ROGAN

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Patrick Rogan of Easton was born in Florida and lived in Washington, DC for 17 years before moving to Easton in 2005. He has BA and MFA degrees in painting from The Catholic University of America and was trained as an exhibition designer at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. He taught painting and design at Catholic University, George Washington University and Maryland Institute College of Art. In 1999, he co-founded Signal 66 Art Space in Washington, a public venue for music, theater, and visual art exhibitions. He later created Assemble, a 501c3 that helps institutions and communities tell their stories. Assemble's past work includes major exhibitions at Maryland Science Center, Longwood Gardens, and the National Building Museum. As a local volunteer with *Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area* (Eastern Shore Heritage, Inc.), he contributed design services to the Tunis Mills Community History Project (2006), Tilghman Island Watermen's Museum (2007), and the Easton Rail Station Interpretive Panel Project (2011). He continues to collaborate with Historic Easton, Inc. and the Frederick Douglass Honor Society to document African American history and culture in Talbot County. Patrick has also worked professionally with the Academy Art Museum for the exhibition, *Joint Heritage: Archeology at Wye House Plantation* and has collaborated with the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, Environmental Concern, and Horn Point Laboratory to create environmental education programs. Recently, he designed the new multimedia exhibition *Living on Land and Water* in the historic Mary Jenkins House for the Talbot Historical Society, and is an interpretative planner in Easton for *The Hill Community Project*. He joined the board in 2016.

RICHARD D. WELCH, JR.

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Dick grew up in southern Mississippi, northern Florida, and eastern North Carolina and enjoyed spending time in the woods and waters of all three states. He holds a bachelors degree from the United States Military Academy and a masters degree in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics from the University of Illinois. He spent 20 years as a Field Artillery officer in the United States Army, with assignments to troop units in Germany and Vietnam, instructor tours at West Point and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and analytical and management jobs in the Washington D.C. area. His service in Washington centered on the Army's early attempts to automate support for command and control functions. After retiring from the Army, he continued this work as an analyst and project manager with SRA International in Northern Virginia until his retirement in 2005. Dick and his family moved from Alexandria, Virginia to Easton in 2003, after 10 years of spending weekends and vacations here. He fell in love with the Chesapeake Bay when he trailered a small cruising sailboat from Kansas to spend a weekend sailing in 1975, and it was sailing that eventually brought him to Easton. Dick spent nine years on the Pickering Creek board of trustees and is active in Christ Church, St. Peters Parish, in Easton. He meets regularly with Poetry at Noon, a weekly poetry reading and discussion group. He has been married to Margaret Miller Welch, a personal financial planner, for more than 50 years, and they have three married children and four grandchildren. He joined the board in 2015.

President Emeritus

ANDREW H. ANDERSON

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Andy Anderson was born and raised in New York City. He completed a military career covering four decades, from enlistment in the State Guard at age 15 during World War II, to commissioning as a National Guard officer in 1951 and beginning active duty during the Korean Conflict, to being severely wounded in action as an infantry battalion commander during the Vietnam War, to retiring as a major general in 1986. His final assignments were as Deputy

Inspector General of the U.S. Army, Deputy Commanding General of VII Corps in Europe, and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. He earned a BA degree from Park University in Missouri, an MS degree from George Washington University, and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College. He is listed in *Who's Who in America* and has been awarded the George Washington Honor Medal for individual achievement by the Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. In 2002, the Secretary of the Army named him Honorary Colonel of the 5th Infantry Regiment, and in 2004 he was elected to a two-year term as President of the 25th Infantry Division Association. He was a member of the Talbot County Council from 1990 to 1998, ending this period as its vice president, during which time he was also on the board of the Talbot County Arts Council. He was again member of the board of the Arts Council from 2001 through 2007, culminating this service as vice president and then president. His other civic activities include service as a director of the Talbot County Paramedic Foundation, member of the Maryland Veterans Home Commission, president emeritus of the Upper Eastern Shore Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, photography chairman of the Waterfowl Festival, and election judge (Republican). His third period of service on the Arts Council was from 2008-2014, during which he was chairman of the Mini-Grant Committee and the Nominating and Bylaws Committee.

Executive Director

GERALD H. EARLY

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Gerry Early grew up in Montana, was drafted at age 19, and spent the next 35 years in the United States Army. A senior paratrooper and jumpmaster, he served with the 173d Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., the 3d Armored Division in Germany, and as commander, 8th Personnel Command in Korea while concurrently adjutant general of Eighth U.S. Army and commander of Camp Coiner in Seoul. He was twice on the Army General Staff at the Pentagon. His final assignments before retiring as a colonel were as Professor of Management and later Director of Academic Affairs for the National Defense University at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, D.C. He has a BS from Arizona State University, master's degrees from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and is a graduate of the National War College. During 1993-98 he was executive director of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University. CARA conducts surveys and other social science-based studies for clients such as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities USA, dioceses and parishes nationwide, and religious institutes of monks and nuns. He founded and continues to write *The CARA Report*, an award-winning quarterly research newsletter. In 1998, he and his wife Michaela moved to the Eastern Shore and built a house on Glebe Creek near Easton. He enjoys biking, reading, crossword puzzles, his sailboat, and his loveable but incorrigible little dog Maya. He has been executive director of the Arts Council since January 1999.