



RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

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Contact: Adrian Moore
Development & Communications Manager
(401) 273-2250 x204
adrian@rihumanities.org

RI COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities welcomes **Phoebe Bean**, **Winnie Brownell**, and **Angela Renaud** to its Board of Directors. The new members bring expertise in the areas of education, library science, leadership development, and community engagement.

In addition to the new board members, the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities elected its new board leadership. Former Vice Chair E. Larson Gunness has been named the new Chair. Joan Abrams will move into the Vice Chair position. Board member Daniel Egan will continue as Secretary, and Lynne Malone will continue as Treasurer.

"We are pleased to welcome these dedicated Rhode Island community leaders to the Council's board of directors," said Elizabeth Francis, Executive Director. "The commitment and expertise of all our board members enable the Council to provide greater access to the humanities, promote civic engagement, support amazing Rhode Island projects, and to contribute to creative and resilient communities."

The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH) is an independent, nonprofit state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities that inspires and supports intellectual curiosity by providing financial support for research and public programs designed to encourage lifelong learning for all Rhode Islanders. Since 1973, RICH has provided over \$7 million in grants to support more than 550 organizations throughout the state of Rhode Island, as well as independent researchers, filmmakers, scholars, and oral historians.

Biographies of new board members and leaders are included below. Photos are attached for all new board members. For more information, contact Adrian Moore at adrian@rihumanities.org or (401) 273-2250 x204.

New Board Members:

Phoebe S. Bean, M.L.S. has diverse experience centered on the production and organization of information throughout history. An interest in the power of the word inspired her to study Islam and Early Christianity at Brown University, receiving her B.A. in 1994. While an undergraduate she worked on a grant with the Society for the History of Technology, which planted a seed of interest in preservation and a wider understanding of the definition of "technology." Ms. Bean worked as a research analyst for companies including Jupiter Communications and Gartner

Management Consulting before receiving her Masters of Library and Information Science in 2003 from the University of Rhode Island. Since 2004 she has been a Senior Librarian at the Library of the Rhode Island Historical Society in Providence, responsible for the extensive collection of early Rhode Island imprints, rare books and manuscripts. Currently serving as Board President of the Consortium of Rhode Island Academic & Research Libraries, she is also a long-standing member of the Boards of Directors of the Rhode Island Center for the Book and of the Board of Friends of the Brown Library.

Winifred Brownell, Ph.D. joined the University of Rhode Island faculty in 1971. Prior to her appointment as Dean in 1999, Dr. Brownell served for 3 years as Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences, 5 years as Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences, and over 20 years on the faculty of Communication Studies at URI. She received a Ph.D. in Communication from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She was supported in part by a National Science Foundation Fellowship. Her interdisciplinary doctoral studies included a number of courses in Computer Programming, Statistics, and Neurophysiology. In 1988, Dr. Brownell received the URI Foundation Teaching Excellence Award, and in 1996 she received the Association of Academic and Professional Women "Woman of the Year" award. In 2014, she received the "Dream Maker Award" from the RI Office of TV and Film. Dr. Brownell has written grants funding over \$3,000,000 in education, research, and construction projects as well as public programming.

Angela Renaud, Ed.D. has served in a number of positions at Johnson & Wales University since 1980 before assuming the position of Dean of Arts & Sciences in which she oversees 95 full-time and approximately 150 part-time faculty and coordinates and creates the curriculum and academic policy. In addition, she is responsible for the functioning of the Community Service Center, which provides opportunities for all Johnson & Wales graduates to engage in community service in the greater Providence area. She graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a bachelor of arts in both English and Education and a master of arts in Education. She earned her doctorate degree at Boston University with a concentration in teaching and curriculum with a research focus in learning disabilities. She has served as an educational consultant and has presented nationally on teacher training. She is a member of an educational think tank sponsored by the New England Center for Higher Education and serves on the Steering Committee of Rhode Island Women in Higher Education. Her community involvement includes chairing the board of directors at the Genesis Center, a nonprofit agency providing education, training, and services to immigrants and a member of the board and program committee for Leadership Rhode Island.

New Board Leadership:

Larson Gunness, Chair, is the owner and managing director of Gunness Financial Services as well as a writer, musician, and storyteller. He holds an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College. Before starting his own consulting practice, Larson worked as a financial consultant with Smith Barney and as vice president for strategic market development at the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation. He received his education at Kenyon College and the MIT Sloan School of Management. He and his family live in Barrington.

Joan Abrams, Vice Chair, is past President of the Board of Directors of Save the Bay, where she co-chaired their Capital Campaign, and currently serves as a Trustee and Co-Chair of the President's Leadership Council. She is a board member for Festival Ballet and Blithewold Mansion, and previously served as President at both institutions. She serves on the Dean's Advisory Council of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where she earned her Masters in Public Administration, and has been named to the Board of Governors of Higher

Education for the three Rhode Island state colleges. She is a member of the Foundation Board of Women & Infants Hospital.

Daniel P. Egan, Secretary, is President of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island (AICU Rhode Island) and leads AICU Rhode Island's efforts in the area of advocacy and consortium activities. Responsible for AICU Rhode Island outreach on the federal, state and local level, the president represents the collective interests of Rhode Island's independent colleges and universities before numerous external constituencies. Dan has extensive experience in government relations, communications, and higher education administration. Before taking on the role of AICU Rhode Island President, he served as chief of staff in the Office of the Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences in the Division of Biology and Medicine at Brown University. Prior to Brown, Dan served as vice president for government relations at the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI). A native of Warwick, Dan resides in Bristol with his wife, Donna, and their three daughters.

Lynne M. Malone, Treasurer, is the Chief Financial Officer at the YMCA of Greater Providence whose responsibilities include overseeing the finance, technology, and facilities departments of the agency. Before her current position she was the Director of Finance at both Meeting Street and The Providence Center for many years. Lynne is a certified public accountant with more than 25 years of experience with not-for-profit organizations. She is a 2007 graduate of Leadership Rhode Island's core program and a member of the Not for Profit Committee of the Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accountants. Her interests include arts, education, and history. Lynne lives in Seekonk, Massachusetts.

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