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RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities welcomes **Reenie Barrow, Daniel Cavicchi, PhD,** and **Rebecca R. Riley** to its Board of Directors. The new members bring expertise in the areas of higher education leadership, philanthropy, scholarship, arts, 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 Polly Hutcheson has been named the new Chair. Shawn A. Christian, PhD, will move into the Vice Chair position, and Jean Patiky will become the Secretary. Gina McDonald remains the Treasurer.

“We enthusiastically welcome these devoted community leaders to the Council’s board of directors,” said Elizabeth Francis, Executive Director, “Our board members are ambassadors for the humanities in vital ways. They are an outstanding network of cultural, academic, and business leaders.”

The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities seeds, supports, and strengthens public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement by and for all Rhode Islanders. As an independent, nonprofit state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Council has provided over \$7.7 million in grants to support more than 650 organizations throughout the state of Rhode Island, as well as independent researchers, filmmakers, scholars, and oral historians, since its founding in 1973.

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

New Board Members:

Reenie Barrow is a photographer who has displayed her work in more than 100 U.S. and international exhibits, including shows at the Association of International Photography Dealers in New York City, Art Institute of Chicago, the International Center of Photography in New York City, the Cuban Center for Photography, Havana, Cuba, and the Zappion National Gallery in Athens, Greece. In addition, numerous private and corporate collections (among them Reader’s Digest, IBM, Fidelity Investments, Connecticut Bank and Trust and the Art Institute of Chicago) permanently house Barrow’s photographs. Among the honors Barrow has received is the Kostas Macadonias Award from the Ministry of Culture of Greece and the Hellenic Center of Photography. It is presented every two years to four individuals “for their contribution to Hellenic photography and to the culture of Greece through photography.” Her book of photography and poetry, *The Wreath of Dreams, Visions of Greek Villages*, was published by

Kastaniotis Editions, Athens, Greece. Since moving to Rhode Island in 1989, Barrow has become involved in community and statewide organizations and has been actively involved in fundraising for several causes. She has served on a variety of boards: the Bristol Art Museum, as well as being the curator of exhibitions; Blithewold Mansion, Gardens, and Arboretum; the Art League of Rhode Island; and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, RI. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Barrow resides in Bristol, RI.

Daniel Cavicchi, PhD, is Dean of Liberal Arts and Professor of History, Philosophy, and the Social Sciences at Rhode Island School of Design. His ethnographic and historical research explores the role of the arts in the everyday lives of Americans. His books include *Listening and Longing: Music Lovers in the Age of Barnum*; *Tramps Like Us: Music and Meaning Among Springsteen Fans*; and *My Music: Explorations of Music in Daily Life*, with Charles Keil and Susan D. Crafts. His public work has included creating the social studies curriculum accompanying Martin Scorsese's *The Blues* film series; curating *Songs of Conscience*, *Sounds of Freedom*, the inaugural special exhibit for Los Angeles's Grammy Museum; creating public programming for the nonprofit organization Music2Life; and developing the Witness Tree Project, a history and design curriculum with the National Park Service. Currently, he is Series Editor of *Music/Interview* from Wesleyan University Press and a member of the editorial boards for *Participations: Journal of Audience and Reception Studies* and *American Music*. Cavicchi is the recipient of both the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching from Brown University and the John R. Frazier Award for Excellence in Teaching from Rhode Island School of Design. A graduate of Cornell University with a BA in English, State University of New York at Buffalo with an MA in American Studies, and Brown University with a PhD in American Civilization, Cavicchi resides in Mansfield, MA.

Rebecca R. Riley worked for nearly twenty years as Program Director and Vice President at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in Chicago. During her tenure she helped the foundation implement multi-million dollar grant making initiatives focused on community development, urban policy and regional planning, and advancing the arts and cultural institutions. Since retiring from MacArthur in 2000, Riley has consulted with national corporations and foundations including ABN-AMRO/LaSalle Bank, the Annie E. Casey and Ford Foundations, and The Urban Institute. She has been an active trustee on many nonprofit boards including WBEZ (Chicago's NPR affiliate), the Regional Plan Association in New York and the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in Washington, D.C. From 2011-2014, Riley joined her husband, who was US Ambassador to ASEAN, in Jakarta, Indonesia from where they traveled extensively and worked throughout the ten Southeast Asian member countries. She continues to work with the Yangon Heritage Trust in Myanmar on the preservation and adaptive reuse of the historic urban landscape of Yangon. A graduate of Ohio University with a BA in Literature, and Indiana University with Master's degrees in Library Science and Educational Media Production, Riley resides in Tiverton, RI.

New Board Leadership:

Polly Hutcheson, Chair, is Director of Sponsored Programs for Roger Williams University, focusing on partnerships and collaborations that connect faculty and students in research and projects that serve the university and local and global communities. Prior to RWU, she worked for eight years with the U.S. Department of Education, overseeing secondary and postsecondary partnerships, reviewing and evaluating grant projects, and promoting the integration of

academic and experiential education. Previously, Hutcheson spent 14 years with a higher education advocacy organization, ultimately serving as Vice President of Education and Government Relations. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from Wellesley College, and an M.A. and advanced graduate studies from Fordham University, focused on urban policy analysis and revitalization. A resident of Jamestown, RI, Hutcheson also serves on the board of the Jamestown Historical Society.

Shawn A. Christian, PhD, Vice-Chair, is Associate Provost and Associate Professor of English, African American, and American Studies at Wheaton College in Norton, MA. His research focuses on the Harlem Renaissance and early, twentieth century print culture. Originally from Miami, Florida, Christian moved to RI in 2003 and quickly planted roots in Providence through his work with the United Way and Trinity Rep. A former actor and (occasional) director, Christian has performed in a production of James Baldwin's *The Amen Corner* and co-directed a production of Ntozake Shange's *for colored girls*. Christian lives in Providence, RI.

Jean Patiky, Secretary, is an artist, community leader, educator, and businesswoman. She is an Exhibiting Artist Member of the Providence Art Club, an Artist Member of the Rhode Island Watercolor Society, and a past-member of the Providence Rotary Club where she co-chaired the annual Paint Off Fundraiser. Before moving to Providence in 2007, Jean lived in Miami, FL, where she served as a facilitator and a Board Member for Miami's Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Miami Program for nearly a decade. As Program Director for Miami's oldest synagogue, she created "Mending Miami," which helped to rebuild 17 sites damaged in Hurricane Andrew. In 2000, she launched her business, "Patiky Hand-Signed Art Cards" which are currently sold in museums shops, hotels, and have been purchased as corporate gifts. She was employed by Burdines, a Federated Department Store, as their Corporate Consultant and chaired "Women in Business" at the Banker's Club. In 1996, she co-produced "The Magic of Miami" a special section for FORBES Magazine. With a degree in art education from PSU, Patiky taught in and administered the Continuing Education Arts Program at Miami-Dade College. Currently, Patiky is leading an initiative to establish a humanities and arts-based senior residence in Providence to realize a vision of a vibrant community connected to the "Creative Capital's" rich cultural resources.

Gina McDonald, CPA, Treasurer, is a graduate of Rhode Island College with a Bachelor's degree in both Accounting and Spanish. In McDonald's 17-year public accounting career, she specialized in accounting and consulting for nonprofits, health care organizations and municipalities in Rhode Island. Currently, working for Fiscal Management Associates, McDonald works with nonprofits throughout New England, specifically striving to build capacity in the finance department. In addition, she is a regular instructor for the CNAP (Certified Nonprofit Accounting Professional Course), the only nationally recognized certification program for nonprofit accounting professionals. McDonald also serves as the Board Treasurer of the Rhode Island College Foundation and resides in Providence, RI.

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