

Common Wealth Murals Board of Directors

Andrew Cade

Andrew Cade is the Senior Vice President of Productive Aging at the Urban League of Springfield. He is the President of the Springfield Cultural Council, the Business Director WTCC, member of the Springfield Cultural Partnership, member of the Communications and African Hall Ubora Committees at the Springfield Museums, and a Trustee of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. His extensive community service also includes roles as the Entertainment Manager for Stone Soul Festival Committee the Brianna Fund for Children with Physical Disabilities, Opportunity Net-Set Tennis Program, US Tennis Association Nominating Committee, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Juneteenth Coordinator for the Brethren Community Foundation, Gospel Workshop of America, and member of St. John's Congregational Church. He has received multiple awards for his achievements, including the African Hall Ubora Award, Stone Soul Legacy Award, Gator Jazz Community Service Award, Urban League Community Builder Award, Harambee Community Service Award and many more.

Vanessa Ford

Vanessa is a vocal artist who has written, arranged and recorded many choral and praise and worship songs. She has sung in special events across the US and is the founding director of the Springfield Community Chorale and a member of The Brianna Fund for Children with Physical Disabilities Gospel Planning Team. Vanessa is the Board President of Blues to Green, which hosts the annual Springfield Jazz & Roots Festival. She is also a member of the PVPA Board of Trustees, a member of Public Health Institute of Western MA Youth Mental Health Advisory Coalition and the New England Teaching Artist Collaborative Steering Group. From 2012-2020, Vanessa served as Director of Operations for State Senator James T. Welch where she managed the district office and staff, maintained the Senator's schedule and was responsible for the oversight of constituent services and community outreach & engagement.

Vanessa is a lifelong Springfield resident and currently serves as a voice faculty member of the Community Music School of Springfield (CMSS) and as a member of CMSS Strategic Planning Committee. She is also the founding Director of Trust Transfer Project, a community-based initiative created by Springfield Cultural Partnership and CMSS which mobilizes local artists of color to create inspiring works of art to improve community health and wellness. Vanessa is an enthusiastic and fierce advocate who focuses on empowering the vulnerable and underrepresented.

Debra Joyce

Debra Joyce is a Western Massachusetts attorney whose firm, Debra Joyce Family Law Consulting, provides education, coaching, mediation and arbitration to resolve disputes between separated and divorced parents in ways that prioritize the well-being of their children. In her capacity as a Guardian Ad Litem in the Massachusetts Probate and Family Courts of Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties, Debra investigates children's best interest in contested custody matters, and serves as a Parenting Coordinator for high-conflict co-parents. Debra is an alumna of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Northeastern University School of Law.

Nora Trebbe Maroulis

Nora Trebbe Maroulis currently leads campaign planning and strategy for Historic New England, brings over 25 years of cultural non-profit management, fundraising, and marketing experience to the board of Commonwealth Murals. Nora began her career working on the front lines of The Metropolitan Museum of Art's \$1B capital and endowment campaign. She went on to lead Development at the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art before returning to her native New England to oversee the launch and positioning of the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. Her commitment to increasing the capacity and vitality of the cultural sector has continued as a member of the leadership teams of deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, the Worcester Art Museum, and the Emily Dickinson Museum, as a board member of MassCreative and UMass' Fine Arts Center, and as an independent consultant assisting some of the region's leading non-profits design, position, and launch major strategic initiatives and connect with transformative donors.

Richard Johnson

Richard Johnson is a visual artist based in Springfield, MA, with a passion for youth development. After graduating from MCLA with a degree in sociology in 2014, Richard started his career as a substance abuse educator in Berkshire County schools. He discovered his talent for teaching through visual arts and developed his skills to give back to the community. In 2018, Richard founded Chess Angels Promotions Inc., an art-based non-profit organization that inspires and promotes the development of the community through action, education, and self-expression. Johnson creates environmental strategy projects that incorporate teachable moments that individuals can take with them for the rest of their life. His main goal is to promote positive youth development, positive family relationships, and economic prosperity through visual art.

Mandisa Oni Jones

Mandisa is the Marketing Manager for AFP, a global news agency providing fast, comprehensive and verified coverage of the events shaping our world and of the issues affecting our daily lives. Drawing from an unparalleled news gathering network across 151 countries, AFP also is a world leader in digital verification. With 2,400 staff representing 100 different nationalities, AFP covers the world in 6 languages, with a unique quality of multimedia storytelling spanning video, text, photos and graphics. Previously, Mandisa was the Digital Marketing Manager for several organizations.

Aundrea Paulk

Aundrea R. Paulk is the Director of Marketing and Communications director at Caring Health Center, the only federally funded Section 330 health center in Greater Springfield. She is the founder and creative force behind SoireeMi, LLC, a Pioneer Valley event planning and design business. SoireeMi offers creative and personalized services for private and corporate clients, including the Springfield Pride Parade Organization. She has been honored by BusinessWest 40 Under Forty for her business success and civic involvement. A graduate of Bay Path University, Aundrea's areas of expertise include marketing and branding, communications, event planning and coordination, budgeting, social media management and website content management. A proud mother of two, Aundrea is a lifelong resident of Springfield.

Jessica Payne

Jessica Payne holds undergraduate and advanced degrees from Hampshire College and New York University and has been an applied research consultant for over 30 years. She founded Boardsight Consulting in 2004 as an independent firm providing her unique approach to applied research. Since that time, Jessica has evolved to include ongoing consultancies in higher education, secondary education, healthcare, community economic development, marketing, and the cultural and arts industry. Jessica's professional experience includes consultations with exceptional institutions such as the Smithsonian Institution, Boston Children's Hospital, Smith College, the Alianza Project, the Community Foundation of Western MA, the Museum of Fine Arts/Boston, the Public Health Institute of Western MA, Loomis Chaffee School, the Holyoke Health Center, StopHazing, Inc., the National Endowment for the Arts and Venture Well.

Britt Ruhe, MBA

Britt Ruhe is the founder and Director of Common Wealth Murals. For over 20 years, Britt has led non profit organizations, applying her skills in community organizing, project management, fiscal management, and public relations to create transformative opportunities for people to work together to improve their own communities. Britt is also the co-founder of the Community Mural Institute (CMI), along with Greta McLain of GoodSpace Murals. The CMI trains artists in best practices and techniques for community-engaged mural making. Britt holds a BA in Community Development and an MBA from UMass.

Christopher Seabrooks

A native son of Springfield MA, Chris Seabrooks left the Hampden County area to receive a Bachelors in Arts and Sciences at Alabama A&M University, with a focus in Graphic Design. One year after graduating, he moved to New York City to attend the School of Visual Arts, receiving a MFAD degree in Steve Heller's Design as Entrepreneur masters program. Living and working in New York from 2009-2019, Chris freelanced with companies such as Estée Lauder, Brunswick Creative, Sweet Chick, Artichoke Pizza, TBWA\Chait\Day, and McCann Workgroup. Feeling the need for community and family, in January of 2020, he moved back home to take a position as a Park Planner with the City of Springfield, Parks Department. In this position, Chris has managed 10+ park projects and written grants for over one million dollars in Community Preservation Act funding. Also an avid runner, Chris says "As an athlete and an artist, kinesthetic movement has been essential to my mental health and physical expression, its revelations identify our core values and life preferences in a world of constraints"

Jacqueline Sheridan

Jacqueline is a freelance television and video producer of television, museum and web-based programs for more than 15 years. Her clients include the BBC, PBS, Monadnock Media, and Boston Productions. She has been the producer for a number of TV series including Life Below Zero, America's Hidden Stories, The Ghost Army, Goldfathers and Tougher in Alaska.