

GPADC SLATE 2022

MONICA GONDEK, CHAIR

Monica graduated from West Chester University with a BA in Biology and received a MS in Microbiology from University of Connecticut. She worked in endocrine research for 5 years and then worked in Quality Assurance before stopping to raise a family. During that time, she was active in the PTA, Music Association, and was elected to two different school boards for a total of 16 years of service. Her second career was in office administration from which she retired in 2017. Monica has always been interested in ancient history and pursued that interest by becoming a docent at the Penn Museum and volunteering for Cartifacts (interactive carts). She started attending GPADC meetings and is currently on the organizing committee for the 2022 Crossroads event. Monica loves to bring people together to share ideas. When not at the Penn Museum, Monica enjoys walking and biking in Philadelphia, attending theatre, dining out, and traveling as much as possible with her husband.

MARIA COLELLA, VICE CHAIR

Maria graduated from the University of Maryland with a BA in Speech and Communications. She spent 20 years in Washington, DC, working primarily in the Translation and Localization industry, as well as the tech industry. A Philadelphia native, Maria relocated back in 2016 and continues to work in technology at a global, fintech, block chain company. Most importantly, Maria is enthusiastic about her volunteer endeavors as a docent at the Mutter Museum, the Shorts Programmer at the Philadelphia Unnamed Film Festival (PUFF) and now the Vice-Chair of the GPADC.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

CAROLYN MARIE SINGLETON

Carolyn earned her Associates Degree (Science) from Hahnemann/Drexel University in 1985, Bachelors Degree (Political Science) from Rutgers University in 1989, and Juris Doctor from Rutgers Law School in 1992. Currently, she is an attorney licensed in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Carolyn represents clients who have mental health and/or intellectual disability. She enjoys working with organizations devoted to history, environmental education, social justice, and people (especially kids and young adults). She has been a Docent for the African American Museum Philadelphia since 2019 and a Tour Guide for Historic Fair Hill (History and Restorative Justice) since 2015. Writing, teaching, traveling, and learning about different cultures and histories are a few of Carolyn's favorite things in life. Being in nature and listening to music help to nurture her contemplative and calm demeanor. Her computer skills and eagerness to learn about technological platforms have positioned her to assist the GPADC in these areas.

LINDA MARKOFF

Linda pursued majors in business and art in college. Upon graduation, she worked for the U.S. Federal Government, Department of Interior. During the time Linda and her husband were raising their three sons, she owned and operated her own metal studio, where she sold and produced "one of a kind" artwork for shows and private customers. Later, Linda was employed at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by employment at the local school district for fourteen years, as an Administrative Assistant to the principal. After retirement, Linda became a docent at PAFA, where she was the editor of the docent newsletter. On Wednesday evenings, she would work along with other volunteers to produce art projects in a special program for children at the Barnes Foundation. Linda has been active in the Art Goes to School program, where she now serves on the Steering committee. Hearing of a new Jewish museum docent program, Linda sent in her resume and after many interviews, was chosen for the first class called the Pioneers. Presently, she is working in her eleventh year at the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History.

VELMA JACKSON, SECRETARY

Best known as VJ, Velma loves learning and is especially interested in new experiences. These two passions convinced VJ to become a docent in 2019 at the Free Library of Philadelphia, where she also served as a member of its Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee. VJ retired from a thirty-year career as an employee of the United States Postal Service. For eighteen of those thirty years, because of her excellent problem solving and communication skills, she was selected to serve as Shop Steward. These same skills, plus her fresh perspectives and energy, have made her a valuable asset to the GPADC Steering Committee.

JUDY ZIPKIN-GRASSO, TREASURER

Judy retired as Director of a geriatric psychiatric unit and anticipated something entirely different during her retirement years. Becoming a docent at the James Michener Art Museum fulfilled her love of art and learning, and was a natural outgrowth from the previous art therapy she had explored with her former patients. Judy now works with persons with dementia both at the museum and at long-term care facilities, while also presenting Outreach PowerPoint presentations at different venues. She is on the Art Committee for the 92 Phillips Mill Art show, and the subcommittee working on a retrospective for Selma Burke, to promote diversity, equality and inclusion. Judy enjoys dabbling in photography, ceramics, and jewelry making. Her contribution to GPADC began by serving on a committee, then joining the Steering Committee, and serving as Treasurer.

REBECCA BUTTERFIELD

Rebecca earned her Ph.D. in Art History at the University of Pennsylvania. She taught Modern and Contemporary Art for more than twenty years, at Penn and at St. Joseph's University. Rebecca has lectured at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Penn Institute of Contemporary Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Currently she serves as the Docent Chair at the Penn Museum where she leads tours in the Classical and Middle East Galleries. Rebecca is a voracious reader, an avid traveler, a modestly skilled knitter and an inept cellist. She loves doing absolutely anything with her daughter and other members of her close-knit family. A few of her favorite things: dance, classical music, hiking, learning stuff and single malt Scotch.

KAREN FOX

Karen received a MS in Education at Bank Street College, and a Masters of Social Work in Administration, Policy and Program Planning at Rutgers University. She spent the first half of her career working as a teacher, as a child development specialist and home-based educator in an early intervention program, as an adjunct professor in early childhood education, and as a director of a Title XX program. Karen moved into the next phase of her career as a social worker providing family violence prevention services for the military, and developing curriculum and providing training for the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. These experiences provided multiple opportunities to develop a level of expertise as a skilled teacher with a solid knowledge and understanding of child, adolescent and adult development. While expanding her multiple careers, Karen made time to become a life-long museum visitor. She quickly discovered that museums contributed greatly, not only to her learning, inspiration and enjoyment, but also as enhancements for empathy and humanity. Karen has been a guide at the Philadelphia Museum of Art for the past 12 years and has served as a member of the Weekend Guide Executive Committee for the last two terms. As a member of the Executive Committee, she has learned about the major issues that confront the museum community and has participated in many problem-solving sessions. As the Executive Committee's Secretary, she has used her writing skills to provide concise, detail-oriented monthly reports to the PMA Weekend Guide community. As an educator, Karen has always been passionate about sharing her love and understanding of art with the greater community. With her background as a social worker, Karen has been passionate about making tours more inclusive with stories and objects that she creatively shares with visitors. Now, she is eager to apply her talents and skills to the GPADC.

