



Michigan Humanities Council

Bridging Communities and Ideas

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HUMANITIES COUNCIL ADDS FIVE TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

New members hail from Grand Rapids, Detroit, Mackinac Island, Traverse City

(LANSING)----- Governor Jennifer Granholm has appointed two individuals to the Board of Directors of the Michigan Humanities Council: Christine Albertini of Grand Rapids and Marlee Brown of Mackinac Island. Their terms began on October 25, 2005, and will expire on December 31, 2008. In addition, three individuals were recently elected to the Board of Directors: Anan Ameri of Detroit, Marguerite Cotto of Traverse City, and Michael Margolin of Detroit. Each was elected to complete a three-year term that will begin January 1, 2006, and end December 31, 2008.

Christine Albertini of Grand Rapids is a retired business executive with 30 years of experience. Her last corporate position was Vice President of Marketing (2001-2002) for Steelcase, Inc., in which she was responsible for launching and marketing the company's product and service offering. This position culminated an 18 year-career at Steelcase, Inc. in executive sales, marketing and general management positions. Albertini began her business career in New York City as the first female (junior) account executive at J. Walter Thompson. Christine serves on the Board of Directors of the Child and Family Resource Council as Fund Development Committee Chair. Albertini received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Anthropology from Ohio University in 1974. She is an active member of the Dominican Chapel Sunday assembly and volunteers at God's Kitchen, an outreach program of the Grand Rapids Catholic Diocese.

Anan Ameri of Detroit currently serves as the director of the Arab American National Museum, a project of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS). Ameri has over 30 years of experience promoting Arab and Arab American humanities and arts programming, including the last eight years with ACCESS. From 1984-1993, she served as the Executive Director and National President of the Palestine Aid Society of America. She is co-editor and contributor to the *Arab American Encyclopedia* (Gale Research, 1999) and co-author of *Arab Americans in Metro-Detroit: A Pictorial History* (Arcadia, 2001). Ameri earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from Wayne State University, and was a visiting scholar at Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies in 1996.

Marlee Brown of Mackinac Island is an internationally renowned painter with a seasonal gallery at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Brown's artwork hangs in many private and corporate collections, most notably at the White House in 1995. She has exhibited extensively including the Galerie Chabin in Paris and at the Wally Findlay Gallery in Chicago. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Brown also studied at the University of California-Berkeley and in Tours, France. Her painting excursions have recently included programs in Paris, New York, and Vermont. Brown is also active in community service. In 1996, she established the Marlee Brown Community Arts Fund, and in 2004 she created Mackinac Island's Great Turtle Festival and the Turtles Around Town public art project. Brown was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Michigan Quarter Commission from 2001-2004, and she served on the Board of Directors of Make-A-Wish of Michigan from 1998-2003.

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Marguerite Cotto of Traverse City is Vice President of the Lifelong and Professional Learning division of Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) in Traverse City, representing non-credit programs, customized training, workforce development, enrichment and professional education. She recently established the Great Lakes Water Studies Institute and the Munson/NMC Health Education Institute. Cotto is currently completing doctorate work, earned a Master of Science in Adult Learning and a professional graduate certificate in watershed management from Michigan State University, and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy from the University of Puerto Rico.

Michael Margolin of Detroit rejoins the Council for his second term on its Board of Directors, having previously served from 2000-2004. He served on the Anniversary Host Committee and assisted the Council's successful 30th Anniversary Celebration at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn on September 30, 2004. Since 2001, Margolin has provided consulting services for charitable giving, fundraising and event planning. Previously, he served as Executive Director for the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. From 1982-1999, Margolin worked as the Director of Medial Social Service and Home Care for Sinai Hospital in Detroit. He has strong roots in community service, and has participated in a variety of special projects including the Detroit Artists Workshop 40th Anniversary Committee and the Warren Symphony Orchestra. Margolin is a freelance writer in Opera magazine, Monthly Detroit Magazine, the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit News, and the Oakland Press.

The Michigan Humanities Council's Board of Directors currently consists of 19 members whose responsibilities include program and proposal review, planning, fundraising, advocacy for the humanities, liaison to projects, and other representation of the Council at activities around the state. Currently, three members of the Council are gubernatorial appointees while the Council Board elected 16.

For additional information on the Michigan Humanities Council and its grant programs, please visit: www.michiganhumanities.org or call 517-372-7770.

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