



**Michigan Humanities Council**

*Bridging Communities and Ideas*

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## HUMANITIES COUNCIL ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

*Judy Rapanos of Midland elected Chair; Tim Chester of Grand Rapids elected vice Chair;  
Betty Brooks of Detroit elected Secretary; Sarah Deson-Fried of Birmingham elected Treasurer*

(LANSING)-----The Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) announces it has recently elected its new officers for its Board of Directors. The new board officers will serve two-year terms that began October 21, 2005:

- **Judy Rapanos of Midland** has been elected Chair. She has extensive public experience with service to arts and cultural organizations, most recently serving as Chair of the National Museum and Library Services, as Chair of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (2001-2003), and serving on the Executive Committee of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (1991-2003). In 2003, Ms. Rapanos received an Honorary Doctorate of Public Services from Central Michigan University. She also is a member of the Midland Foundation and the Midland County Republican Executive Committee.
- **Tim Chester of Grand Rapids** has been elected Vice Chair. He currently serves as Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Public Museum of Grand Rapids, a position he has held since 1988. He is currently serving on the Governor's Advisory Committee for the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries, and on the Advisory Committee for the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University. In 1997, Chester was honored with a Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Museums Association.
- **Elizabeth "Betty" Brooks of Detroit** has been elected Secretary. She is a patron of the arts and humanities and a tireless community services leader. Brooks also currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Opera Theatre. She previously served three terms on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA). Brooks has recently served as Chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Sphinx Organization and has served on the Advisory Boards of: the Lewis College of Business, the Music Hall for Performing Arts, the Plow Shares Theater, the Detroit High School for the Fine and Performing Arts, the Council for African American Dance at the Detroit Opera House, and the Sixth Annual International Fatherhood Conference of 2004. She is the recipient of many community service awards throughout her career.
- **Sarah Deson-Fried of Birmingham** has been elected Treasurer. She is senior counsel for the real estate division of the law firm Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone. Deson-Fried served as Chair of MHC's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee in 2004. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA), the Michigan NEXT Energy Authority, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Detroit Friends of the Joffrey Ballet, and Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan. In 2002, Corp! Magazine named Deson-Fried as one of Michigan's "95 Most Powerful Women."

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.

The Michigan Humanities Council, founded in 1974, is the state's independent, non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For additional information on the Michigan Humanities Council, please visit: [www.michiganhumanities.org](http://www.michiganhumanities.org) or call 517-372-7770.

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