

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

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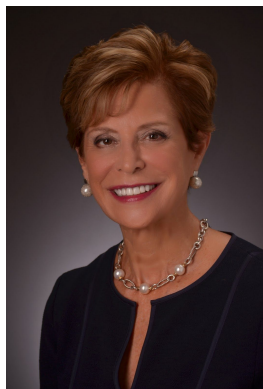
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Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg Announces New Trustees for 2019-2020

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (August 1, 2019) — The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (MFA) announces five new and returning members to its volunteer Board of Trustees: **Maria Cantonis, Piers Davies, Dr. Robert Drapkin, Mark Mahaffey** and **Candace Scherer Sharp**. Each is known for personal advocacy of the arts and brings unique civic, business and philanthropic experiences to these new leadership roles in service to the community.

Incoming officers for the MFA Board include **Fred Razook**, chairman; **Dimity Carlson**, vice-chairman; **Craig Sher**, treasurer; and **Emily Elwyn**, secretary. Retiring from the board are **Glenn Mosby** and **Chloe Firebaugh**. This brings the governing body of the museum to 25 members.

“I am honored to serve with the caliber of individuals who are joining us at such an exciting time for the Museum,” said incoming Board Chairman Fred Razook. “St. Petersburg is a destination city for the arts, and the MFA is central to its cultural vibrancy and ongoing development for residents and visitors alike.”



Maria P. Cantonis

Maria P. Cantonis has served as a board member of the Clearwater Arts Alliance and The Florida Orchestra, and served as a member of the Arts For A Complete Education Steering Committee, a committee of the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance. She has been consistent in her support of arts education at the local and state level, and recognized for her nonprofit leadership. Cantonis was as a recipient of The Florida Orchestra “Maestro’s Award” (1996), the Girls Scouts of West Central Florida “Women of Distinction” Honoree (2007), and the Pinellas County Arts Council “Friends of the Arts/Arts Patron Award” (1999).

**Piers Davies**

Piers Davies, founder of Piers Davies Fine Art, has worked in the international fine art market for over 20 years. A consultant for Winston Art Group and Art Peritus in New York, he also is a charity auctioneer and has worked with causes such as the Food Bank for New York City, The Jericho Project, The Fontainebleau Schools, Children's Theater Company, and the American Cancer Society.

**Robert Louis Drapkin, MD, FACP**

Dr. Robert Louis Drapkin is medical director of the Institute of Vitality in Tampa, and is board-certified in internal medicine, oncology and palliative care. Currently on the boards for the Florida Museum of Photographic Art and Graphicstudio at the University of South Florida, and past board member of the Fogg Museum at Harvard University, he returns to the Board of the MFA where he has been a major art contributor from his expansive personal collection, making the MFA Photography Collection one of the best in the Southeastern United States.

**Mark T. Mahaffey**

Mark T. Mahaffey is chairman and partner of The Mahaffey Company, a family enterprise that specializes in residential apartment developments, as well as chairman emeritus of the Mahaffey Theater Foundation, and a past vice-president of the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce. Formerly the chairman for the MFA board, he has also been a member of the advisory council of the University of Notre Dame Libraries, Suncoasters of St. Petersburg, Inc., and Academy Prep in St. Petersburg.

**Candace Scherer Sharp**

Candace Scherer Sharp, a realtor and independent agent for Southern Roots Realty, has volunteered for a wide range of organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, Junior League, Infinity League to Aid Abused Children and Adults, and is a founding member of the Celma Mastry Ovarian Cancer Foundation. She is the current president of the Margaret Acheson Stuart Society at the MFA.

“Our trustees help shape the direction of the MFA’s future,” said MFA Executive Director Kristen A. Shepherd. “Each trustee makes a commitment to our community, so to those completing their terms, as well as those serving in the coming years, we owe a very high debt of gratitude.”

ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

The MFA at 255 Beach Drive NE has a world-class collection, with works by Monet, Morisot, Rodin, O’Keeffe, Willem de Kooning, and many other great artists. Also displayed are ancient Greek and Roman, Egyptian, Asian, African, pre-Columbian, and Native American art. Selections from the photography collection, one of the largest and finest in the Southeast, are on view in a gallery dedicated solely to the medium. Kristen A. Shepherd is the Executive Director.

Hours are 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday; 10 a.m.–8 p.m. on Thursday; and noon–5 p.m. Sunday. Regular admission is \$20 for adults; \$15 for those 65 and older, Florida educators, college students, and active duty military; and \$10 for students 7 and older. Children under 7 and Museum members are admitted free. Groups of 10 or more adults pay only \$14 per person and children \$4 each with prior reservations. Also, admission is just \$10 after 5 p.m. on Thursday. The MFA Café is open from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Tuesday–Sunday. For more information, please call 727-896-2667 or visit mfastpete.org.

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