

# MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg Announces New 2021-22 Trustees**

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (June 28, 2021) — The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg is thrilled to announce seven new members to our volunteer Board of Trustees. **Elizabeth “Beth” England, Wayne “Skipt” Fraser, Sharon Gardner, Elise Behnke Minkoff, David Ramsey, and Corrie Stover** will serve a term of three years. Stuart Society President, **Pam Hatton**, will serve a one-year term. Outgoing board members include **George Baxter and Rita Peters**.

The new MFA Board officers for 2021-2022 are: **Dimity Carlson**, *Chair*, **Piers Davies**, *Vice Chair*, **Timothy J. Coop**, *Treasurer*, **Emily Elwyn**, *Secretary*, and **Fred S. Razook**, *Immediate Past Chair*.

“To those individuals completing their terms, we owe a very high debt of appreciation for their leadership, time and dedication,” Carlson said. “This incoming group of trustees brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that will greatly benefit the museum and the communities we serve. We are so delighted to work with them all as we continue to elevate the MFA.”

### **Elizabeth “Beth” England**

Elizabeth “Beth” England and her husband, John, moved to the area in 2010, and she has since devoted her time to working with nonprofits in the arts and education. She is also a member of the Margaret Acheson Stuart Society of the MFA, St. Petersburg, a separate fundraising arm of the MFA. In 2017, she and her husband co-chaired the group’s popular event, Wine Weekend (“Wine & Choccol’Art”). England, whose career was in Human Resources, serves on the boards of Academy Prep Center of St. Petersburg, where she is also a member of the Advancement Committee; and Ruth Eckerd Hall, where she serves on the Executive and Governance Committees. Academy Prep recognized her as a “Five Fabulous Female” in 2018 for her impact at the school and in the community.

**Wayne “Skipp” Fraser**

Wayne “Skipp” Fraser grew up and spent his entire career in accounting in St. Petersburg. Fraser served as president of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accounts in 1996-97, and was on the governing board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accounts from 1992-2000. Currently, he is a board member of The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, and serves on the Palladium Advisory Committee. Fraser previously held board leadership roles at Bayfront Medical Center, Florida International Museum, St. Petersburg Community Alliance, St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Suncoast Tiger Bay Club.

**Sharon Gardner**

Sharon Gardner has over 30 years of business management, marketing and customer management experience nationally and internationally. Gardner has served as chairman of the board of Lumene Cosmetics and Skin care in Finland, and Dorset Cereals and Tyrrells Potato Crisps, both based in the UK. She was also a board member for Attune Foods, Farnos Industrial Cleaning in Finland and Elvi, a UK clothing retailer. Gardner has held several leadership positions with the Margaret Acheson Stuart Society of the MFA, St. Petersburg, including serving as a board member, treasurer and co-chair of the Gala Auction Dinner for 2017’s Wine Weekend. She is currently treasurer and board member for both the Canterbury School of Florida and Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg.

**Elise Behnke Minkoff**

Elise Behnke Minkoff is the Administrative Director for the Sixth Judicial Circuit Public Defender’s Office where she oversees operations, personnel, grants, and contracts. Minkoff is past president of the Junior League of St. Petersburg, the League of Women Voters St. Petersburg, the Woman's Service League, the Margaret Acheson Stuart Society of the MFA, St. Petersburg. She has chaired both the Juvenile Welfare Board and the St. Petersburg Free Clinic. Elise has served on numerous boards such as the Poynter Foundation, Early Learning Coalition, Great Explorations and is a past Honorary Commander at MacDill AFB.

**David Ramsey**

David Ramsey has been a notable fixture in volunteer leadership roles at arts organizations across St. Petersburg. He is currently a board member at Florida CraftArt, and former president and treasurer. He has served on the boards of American Stage, Mainsail Arts Festival, St. Petersburg Arts Commission, St. Petersburg Police Dept. Public Arts Selection Committee, St. Petersburg Arts Alliance and the Warehouse Arts District Association. Ramsey, who recently retired after a longtime tenure at Raymond James Financials, is an avid arts collector of metal sculpture, glass and clay.

**Corrie Stover**

Carrie Stover, a native of St. Petersburg, has spent her professional life working with youth, and volunteering her time to organizations focused on the education and well-being of children. She has dedicated her time to Shorecrest Preparatory School in a multitude of roles, including president of the Booster Club. In 2018, the school awarded her Volunteer of the Year. Stover is a longtime member of the Junior League of St. Petersburg, a member of the Infinity Club and founding member of DIVAS4, a non-profit started by four women to raise money for local charities from 2009–2015. She recently joined the Margaret Acheson Stuart Society of the MFA, St. Petersburg.

**Pam Hatton**

Pam Hatton, who enjoyed a long career as an educator, began her volunteer work at the Junior Woman's Club. She eventually became president of the organization, and later Junior District Director for the General Federation of Woman's Clubs. She's been an active member of Margaret Acheson Stuart Society of the MFA, St. Petersburg, serving as Reservations chair, Membership vice president, Smartly Dressed co-chair, and currently as President. Hatton is also involved in Infinity, The League to Aid Abused Children and Adults, USFSP Town and Gown, Queen of Hearts, and her church.

“Our work is not possible without the strength and support of our board, and we are so honored to have the expertise, enthusiasm and dedication our new trustees bring to the organization,” said MFA Executive Director and CEO Kristen A. Shepherd.

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

The MFA at 255 Beach Drive NE is the largest encyclopedic art museum in Florida. The collection includes works of art from ancient times to the present day and from around the world, including ancient Greek and Roman, Egyptian, Asian, African, pre-Columbian, Native American, European, American, and contemporary art. The photography collection is one of the largest and finest in the Southeast. Kristen A. Shepherd is the Executive Director and CEO. For more information, please visit [mfastpete.org](http://mfastpete.org) and follow @mfastpete on social media.