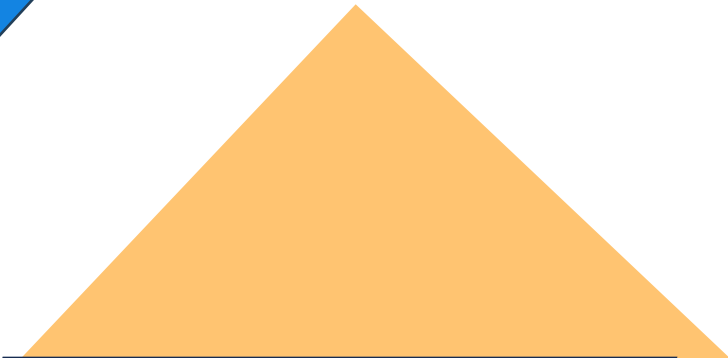
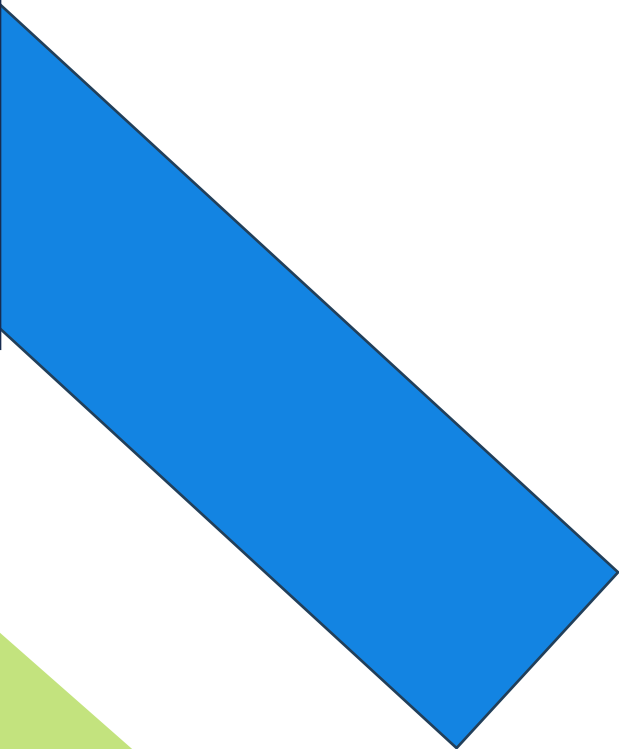




COUNCIL

CONNECTIONS

**SPECIAL EDITION
JUNE 2023**



Kudos to Mimi Ryland and Her Team!

Council Achievements 2021-2023

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- 
- Eighty-eight (88) new members
 - Expanded informational membership induction
 - Six (6) successful lecture luncheons
 - Significant increase in member enrichment programs
 - Meetings with all volunteer committee chairs to determine future needs & directions

- 
- 
- Expanded Council website
 - *NEW VMFA Council Connections*
 - Renewed visibility of Council in *VMFA Magazine*
 - Support for VMFA Sculpture Garden under new horticultural leadership
 - Continued financial support for VMFA

Message from the VMFA Council President



Dear Council Members,

We are so fortunate to be engaged as volunteers in support of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts - an amazing, stellar, accomplished, highly recognized and regarded as one of the top twenty art museums in the country!! For me, as I know it is for each of you, it is a source of pride to be a part of VMFA's contribution to the Commonwealth of Virginia in making world renown art accessible to all, 365 days a year. We, The Council of VMFA, have a powerful role to play in supporting the mission and vision of VMFA, conducting the highest level of hospitality to all visitors, while collaborating and nurturing positive relationships with the VMFA staff to achieve the goals. It's inspiring to be a part of such a vibrant partnership!

The Museum AND The Council are guided by the Museum's Strategic Plan for 2021–25, "striving to become a more vibrant, inclusive cultural leader. The vision includes a VMFA that empowers all Virginians—through art and creativity—to reflect and connect to each other, their communities, and the wider world. VMFA aspires to earning increased recognition statewide as a public asset and nationally and internationally as a leader in the museum field. At its core, the 2021–25 Strategic Plan focuses on reflection and progression of artistic and organizational practices. VMFA will expand its heart, its identity, and its reach through collecting, storytelling, research, community connection, physical expansion, partnerships, and an internal culture that embodies our values."

Included in this Council Connections Special Edition are The Council's Strategic Initiatives for 2023-2025. They support and integrate with the Museum's strategies. My hope is that each of you will be excited to take part and help in your own Council role to bring these strategies to fruition. We have much to do together. AND Fine Arts & Flowers 2024 is just around the corner!

In this new year, the goals for The Council are to be positively inspiring to our visitors, to each other, and to our staff partners; *to remember our own purpose and mission as stated in The Council Article of Association "...to broaden the influence of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts throughout the Commonwealth by supporting its activities and promoting its interests..."*; to work together and utilize our time, talents and experiences to promote the highest level of continuing success for The Council; and to enrich our members' volunteer experiences with fellowship, learning, respect, and joyful interactions and engagement.

My sincere gratitude goes out to all of you for your wonderful commitment, dedication and enthusiasm in continuing to support The Council each and every day.

A really BIG "Hat's Off" and round of applause goes to the creators of this beautiful Special Edition - Linda Gill, Diane Barbour, and Gail Gilmore! Please take a moment to express your appreciation.

Nan Boyd
President - The Council of VMFA

Meet the Council Officers for 2023-2025




Nan Boyd became Council president at the May Lecture-Luncheon, succeeding Mimi Ryland, who had served as president since 2021. Other new officers include MaryMoss Walker, who serves as vice president replacing Diane Barbour, and Brenda Hubbard, who follows Rose Brinson as recording secretary. Officers returning for the second year of their terms are Debbie Turner, corresponding secretary, and Julia Cothran, treasurer.

Nan Boyd joined The Council of VMFA 14 years ago. She was special events and trunk show coordinator of the VMFA Shop for nine years. She organized fashion shows in the Marble Hall and served on the Volunteer Task Force. She also has been a school group greeter and a special events ambassador.

In her “real life” outside VMFA, Nan was executive director of the Children’s Museum of Richmond for many years. Born in Atlanta, she





majored in interior design and fashion merchandising and worked in Kansas City, Los Angeles and New York City. After adopting children from Korea and the Philippines, she changed careers to focus on children. Nan was YWCA Woman of the Year in Business in 1999.

MaryMoss Walker, a native New Yorker, moved to Richmond in 1990 with her husband who grew up in Charlottesville. She graduated from the University of Virginia. She joined The Council in 2017. She was recording secretary for the Council board for two years and has been on the MEP committee. She began training as a Gallery Care Assistant this year.

During her working life, MaryMoss was assistant to a bloodstock (horse) insurance broker for many years and was also administrative director for the Essex County Conservation Alliance. She has been co-chair with Barb Yorgen of the logistics/flower management committee for FA&F since 2018. She is a past president of the Tuckahoe Elementary School PTA.

Brenda Hubbard was born in Richmond and raised in Powhatan County. She retired from Capital One in information technology and joined The Council in 2011. She recently began volunteering with AARP TaxAide and keeps the books for her nephew's restaurant and bakery. Through The Council, she is a Gallery Care Assistant at VMFA.

The two returning officers were both active in the Richmond school system during their careers.

Julia Cothran directed the Metro Richmond MathScience Innovation Center. Previously she taught sciences, wrote textbooks and ran school-division programs in Richmond. A member of VMFA since 1976, she has been The Council's recording secretary, chair of the Facilities Tour Committee, co-chair of Volgistics and on the New Member Orientation Committee.

Debbie Turner has been active in several Council assignments, including FA&F, Painting Conservation and Membership Assistance. She has served as a mentor for new Council members. She worked for more than 30 years as a counselor in Richmond Public Schools. Debbie served on the adjunct faculty at VCU throughout her career, teaching and supervising graduate students in counselor education.

The elected officers plus the Chair of Council Service to VMFA and the Chair of Council Operations will serve on the Executive Committee of The Board of Governors. Suzanne Battaglia and Joe Nartowicz, Co-Chairs of Technology Management, will serve in an advisory role to the Executive Committee.

Sherrill Smith - Chair, Council Service to VMFA



Sherrill was born and raised in Richmond. She attended Marymount High School and Mary Washington College where she earned a B.S. in Biology. Sherrill met her lawyer husband Joey Smith in college.

After graduation she worked in a physiology lab at MCV until her children were born. She now has three children and 10 grandchildren.

Sherrill joined The Council in 1994 and initially worked in the Shop. She has also Co-Chaired

the Hirschler Flowers for many years and was a Co-Editor of the Councillor. In 2010 when the Museum reopened, Sherrill was asked to head up volunteer placement and she became Chair of Volunteer Placement, a position she has held since then.

Through the years, Sherrill has worked on numerous committees for FA&F. She has been Co-Chair of Individual Sponsors and Co-Chair of the FA&F Gala twice. Sherrill will again Co-Chair Individual Sponsors for FA&F 2024.

When she is not volunteering at VMFA, Sherrill spends time at her river house on the Potomac. She also loves bridge and traveling with family and friends. In the last five months, Sherrill has been to Egypt, Lisbon, Cinque Terre and Rome.

She is looking forward to working with Nan Boyd and her new Council Board in the coming two years as Chair, Council Service to VMFA. She will also serve on The Council Executive Committee.

Intro to the Council Organization Chart

This new framework of organization for The Council reflects in a clear image the three key functions of The Council and in which area our committees and teams fit.

Of course, the core function of The Council, according to our mission and purpose, is to serve VMFA. Therefore, the core (middle column) of the framework is Council Service to VMFA. Sherrill Smith, Placement Chair, is now the Chair of this core function.

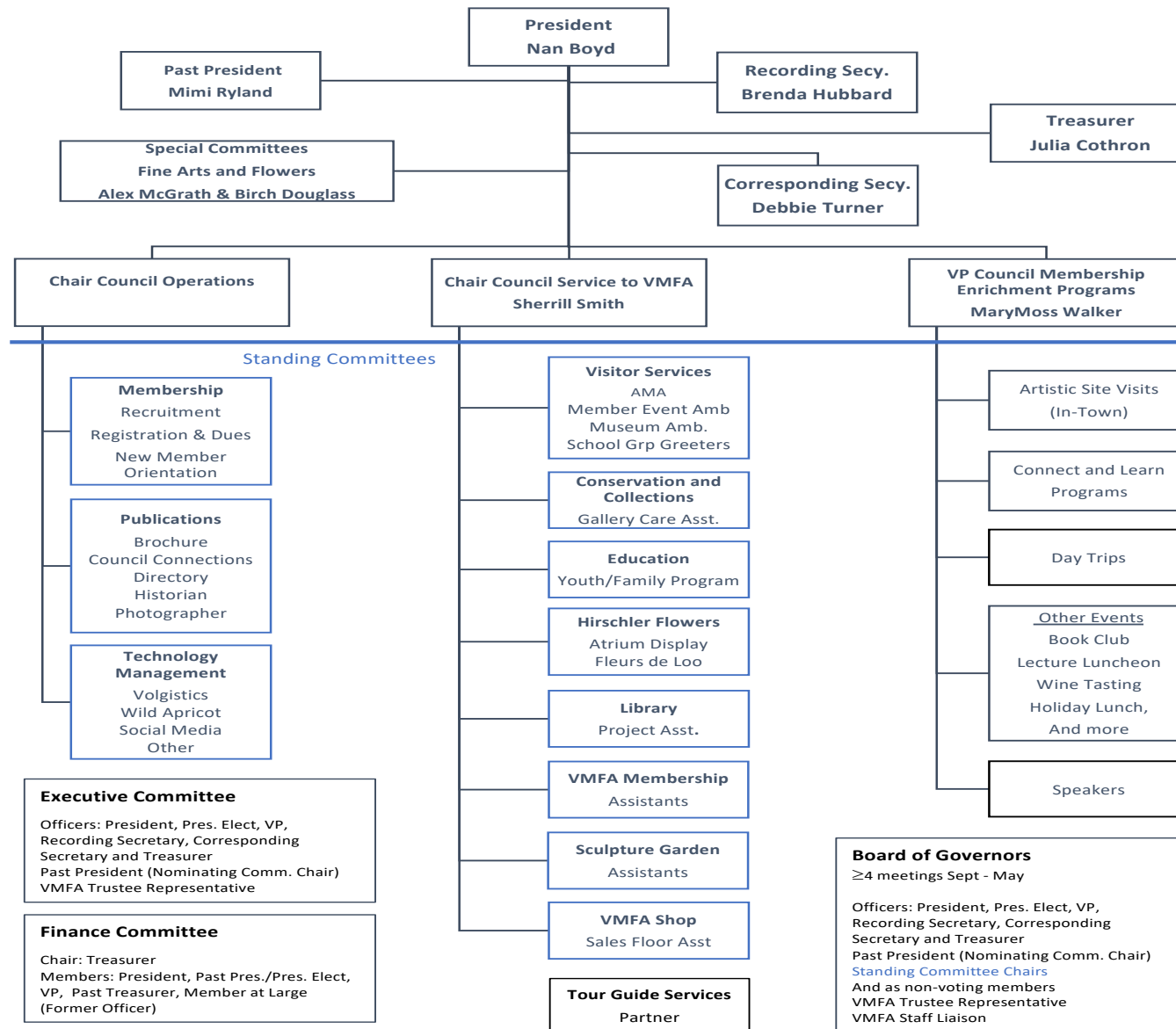
The column to the left represents our essential function of care and service to efficient operations of The Council. Committees and teams that support The Council's growth and effectiveness are listed here. The column to the right represents our essential function of care and service to our members – providing enriching opportunities for learning, fellowship, and fun. As VP, MaryMoss Walker is Chair, Council Membership Enrichment Programs.

We encourage and invite Council members to join the Operations and Enrichment teams as well as the Service to VMFA committees! Please contact Sherrill at coachet@comcast.net or MaryMoss at mmwalker901@gmail.com to express your interest in joining these new teams.

We plan to share the Council Org Chart and Strategic Initiatives in Member Recruitment events and New Member Orientation. Both of these documents provide great clarity on the Council's key organizing functions, top priorities and goals. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you so very much for your volunteer service and dedication to The Council of VMFA! - Nan Boyd -

The Council of VMFA Organization Chart



THE COUNCIL OF VMFA STRATEGIC INITIATIVES – 2023 - 2025

In this current environment of business, whether it is corporate, not for profit or volunteer business, it is so very important to identify goals that further the success and efficiency of that business. The Council of VMFA is a large and growing volunteer organization which can benefit from our focus on big picture strategies for the next two years. These strategies are essential for budget preparation for the next two years as well. Listed below are the top ten Strategic Objectives which your Council leadership identified as our critical road map for the future of The Council. They will provide guidance to all of us in our work, decision making, focus and measurement of success in 2023-2025. I want to thank all members of the Executive and Finance Committees, plus the BOG for their contributions and input in creating these Strategic Initiatives! - Nan Boyd -

- 1. Develop an annual strategic plan to “Grow the Council” – aligning with VMFA Strategic Plan – to increase diversity of age, gender, and ethnicity. Increase Active membership by seventy-five new members in fiscal year 2023-24.**
- 2. Attain full commitment from Active members to meet the required hours of service (six hours/month or eighteen hours /quarter) for their assigned committees and teams.**
- 3. Continue to build and offer a variety of educational, creative, enriching programs and events for Council members’ enjoyment and fellowship.**
- 4. Attain Council visibility, recognition, and promotion on site at the Museum, for all visitors to be introduced to and recognize The Council as the signature volunteer group for the Museum. Encourage visitors to learn more and join The Council.**
- 5. Implement a multi-year financial plan built on membership dues, growth in membership numbers, positive revenue, and appropriate percentage of Council fund development events.**
- 6. Commit to “Renewable Leadership” for the future to build succession and training, thereby enabling leadership readiness of new Council officers and committee chairs.**
- 7. Educate Council members on The Council organizational structure, officer and committee roles, history, accomplishments, and strategic initiatives.**
- 8. Continue to utilize Council electronic media to communicate Council membership benefits, enrichment programs, recognition and appreciation of members and teams, and important Council information.**
- 9. Increase technology assistance towards management of Volgistics, Wild Apricot and the website to enable support for the digital needs of the Council.**
- 10. Commit 100% Council support for preparation, planning and participation in 2024 Fine Arts & Flowers to ensure successful achievement of goals.**

May 30, 2023, Prepared by Nan Boyd with contributions from Council Executive Committee and Board of Governors.

WELCOME NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS!

Name	Volunteer Placement
Kay Adams	LA/AMA
Angie Cabell	AMA
Susan Caley	AMA
Patti Chappell	SGG
Jim Chappell	MA/SGG
Jerome Christensen	GCA
Hilary Cifu	SG
Susan Clark	AMA/EA
Pauline Clay	GCA
Nancy Costello	SGG
Sara Crump	MA
Adrienne Dery	AMA
Evans Dowdy	SG/D
Christine Drury	AMA
Mary Michelle A. Edmunds	AMA
Linda R. Edwards	SG
James Evans	GCA
Patricia Fanney	TG
Valentia Friedman	SG
Brandon Fox	MA
Claire Gastanaga	AMA
Johanna Gattuso	SG
Ralph Grove	AMA
Nancy Gunn	LA (Reinstated)
Denise Kern	SGG
Jean Laib	AMA
Jill Leon	MA
Lacy Letonoff	MA/AMA

Eleanor Lewis	AMA/FC
Jay Lewis	SG
Victoria Lewkow	EA/MEA (Reinstated)
Chris McConnell	S
Carol McCoy	MA
Carolyn Margolies	AMA/S
Theresa Morgerson,	TG
Dale Monroe	SGG
Bobbette Newsome	AMA
Michelle Oliver	MA
Janet Peery	AMA
Shari Perago (Ms.)	GCA
Sellers Procell	MA
Lona Pugh	MA
Jennifer J. Reid	GCA
Zachary Reid	SG/SGG
Julie Scott	SGG/D
Yujie Shan	TG
Diane Sheehey	MA
Marilyn Simon	AMA
Robin Somers-Strom	SG
Carlynn Still	TG (Reinstated)
Elizabeth Teviotdale	GCA
Catherine Thompson	GCA/S
Harriett Waldrop	SG (Reinstated)
Katherine Wazuka	SGG/AMA/VMFA-MA
Abigail Winship	*
Dorothy Woodson	LA

A warm welcome to our 58 newest Council members. It is good to have you onboard as part of the VMFA Volunteer team. Please reach out and introduce yourself to these individuals, particularly if you share a volunteer assignment with them.

Volunteer Placements

- AMA - Ask Me Ambassador
- D - Decorations
- EA - Event Ambassador
- FC - Flower Committee
- GCA - Gallery Care Associate
- MA - Museum Ambassador
- MEA - Member Even Ambassador
- LA - Library Assistant
- SG - Sculptor Garden
- S - Shop
- SGG - School Group Greeter
- TG - Tour Guide
- VMFA-MA - VMFA Membership Assistant
- * Assignment Pending

499 School Groups and Counting!

Featured Volunteer Group – School Group Greeters

After a two year absence following the pandemic, it has truly been a delight to welcome school groups back to VMFA! From September 2022 through May 2023, the School Group Greeters helped to welcome the majority of the 499 school groups which included 13,694 participants (K-12 students, college students, teachers and chaperones)! A huge thanks to this team of volunteers for all they do from 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM on Tuesdays – Fridays to make sure all school groups who visit have an excellent experience!

Some school groups schedule a specific guided tour closely related to their curriculum. Other groups prefer a highlights tour designed for a specific age group. School Group Greeters meet teachers and students at their bus, accompany them to the school entrance, and assist with storing coats and lunches. The Greeters also help divide students into groups for guided tours and introduce teachers to their assigned tour guides. All are delighted when they are off for an exciting and informative tour. Pat Van Tuyle, a veteran docent/tour guide, often applauds the School Group Greeters for the tremendous assistance they provide. “Their help makes it possible for us to start our tours on time. They are extremely helpful when we have many large groups coming in at the same time.”

Since VMFA is open 365 days a year, school groups are welcome to visit for a self-guided tour any time. School Greeters assist these groups by suggesting areas of interest for specific grade levels, providing VMFA maps, and directions to specific galleries. Teachers who lead self-guided groups often use the resources on the VMFA web site to create an art scavenger hunt for their students or to plan a focused sketching assignment, a favorite activity for high school art students.

Nine of the School Group Greeters are new Council members who joined this year and a great addition to the team. The twelve experienced Greeters who returned after the pandemic have been a tremendous help sharing their knowledge and working closely with the new members during training. The SGG team is enthusiastic, dedicated and looking forward to welcoming three new members in July. Carolyn Neurohr, a new School Group Greeter, said recently, “It is a pleasure to welcome enthusiastic students, teachers, and chaperones as they anticipate a time of observing works at the museum and interacting with well informed docents.” The School Group Greeter Team works with Brigette Thomas, Director of Visitor Experience, Karen Getty, Senior Tour Services Coordinator, and Kristin Long, Tour Services Assistant.

For many students, their school visit to VMFA is their first visit to a museum! The School Group Greeters, Tour Guides, Tour Services, and the entire VMFA Staff do an excellent job of making sure they will return often!



Behind the Scenes

With his warm smile, Michael Guajardo, seen here with Katy Crim, Director of Food Service and Special Events, has become a familiar presence at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts since joining VMFA in 2011 as floor manager for the Museum Shop.

“I took a chance and interviewed for the VMFA floor manager position, not knowing much about working within a museum,” he said. “Now I always tell anyone who asks that this is the best place I’ve ever worked.”

During his 12 years at VMFA, Guajardo’s position has evolved and expanded. Almost two years ago, he was named assistant deputy director for enterprise operations. In addition to the Shop, he is now responsible for many other revenue-generating departments.

Besides the Shop, he oversees VMFA’s Amuse restaurant and Best Café as well as special events, plus the VMFA Shop’s e-commerce and product development areas. But Guajardo credits helping employees enhance their skills and career options as the most rewarding part of his work.

“I love generating ideas to create revenue. The part I enjoy most is developing advancement opportunities for my team,” he explained.

Guajardo came to VMFA as floor manager of the VMFA Shop in 2011 after managing the showroom floor and learning design work for Martin Interior Design in Carytown for six years, and at Pier One Imports in several states for for eight years before that.

Growing up in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, he worked for Pier One in Richmond; Harrisonburg, Va.; Washington, D.C.; and New York City before coming to Richmond in 2004 to join Martin Interior Design, where he managed day-to-day operations.

Guajardo's major efforts at VMFA include working with his retail team to help innovate the Shop's e-commerce site, create and expand memorable exhibition shops at the museum, create tent sales at VMFA and holiday pop-up shops at Stony Point Fashion Park and Short Pump Town Center.

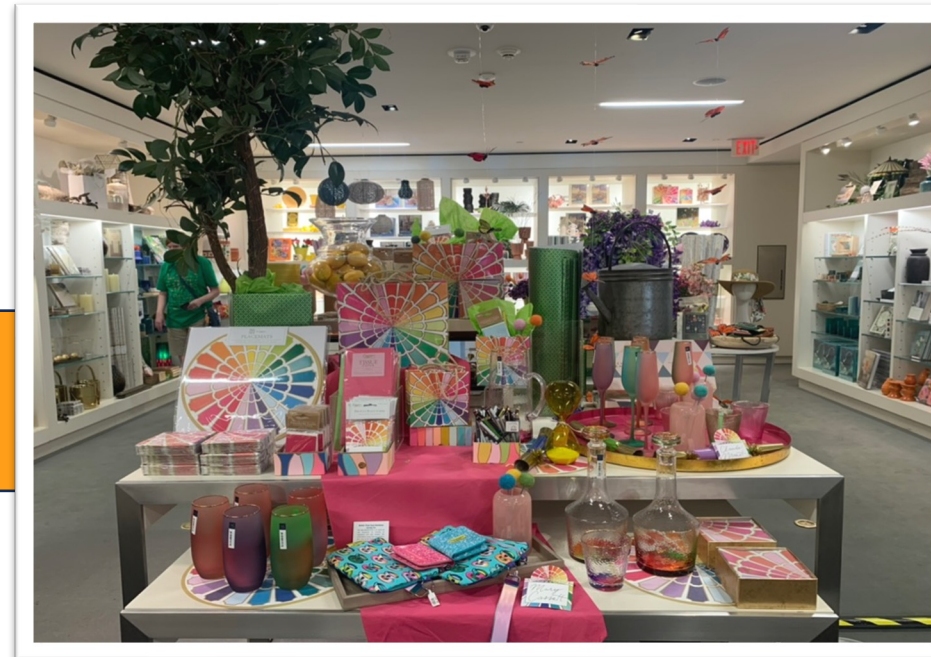
Over the last three years, he has worked with VMFA's food service and event teams to revamp, realign and enhance all of their offerings.

"My team and I continue to think and operate entrepreneurially to offer great experiences for our guests and exciting career opportunities for our team while generating revenue for the museum," he added.

- Gail Gilmore -



Best Cafe



The VMFA Shop



Amuse

Summer Reading for Book Club members October Book Club Selection

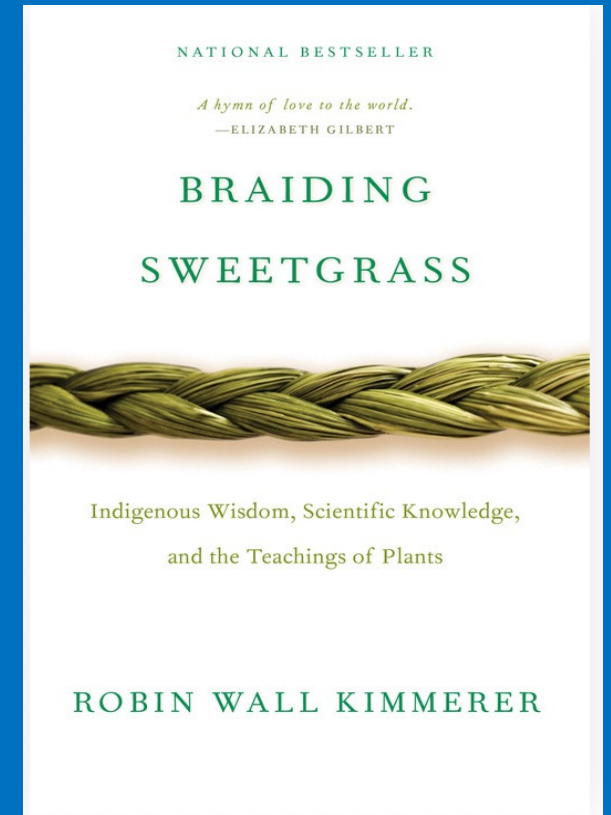
Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants, by Robin Wall Kimmerer

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these lenses of knowledge together to show that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings are we capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learning to give our own gifts in return.

MEP Events To Look Forward to this Fall

- Paul & Julie Weissend have graciously agreed to host a second tour of their Monument Avenue home for 30 Council Members.
- The Connect & Learn series will continue. The Committee is investigating a Conservation Studio Tour and a Behind the Scenes look at where Off View art is stored.

Stay tuned and read Council Connections for details as they are developed.



Announcing the First of Three Lectures for all Council Members for 2023-2024

The September lecture will be held in VMFA's Reynold's Theater, on the lower level.

Kicking off the year, we will gather on Monday, September 11 at 10:00 am for The Council business meeting followed by a lecture by two presenters: Dr. Susan J. Rawles and Elizabeth Locke. The lecture will be based on "*A Return to the Grand Tour: Micromosaic Jewels from the Collection of Elizabeth Locke*".

Dr. Susan J. Rawles, Associate Curator of American Painting and Decorative Art, joined the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in 1995. She has since served as Interim Department Head, Assistant Curator of American Decorative Art, and Research Associate for the American Department. Rawles received a PhD in American Studies from the College of William and Mary, an MA in the history of art from Rice University, and a BA in economics and government from Smith College. While specializing in material culture of the mid-17th to early-19th century, she has written and lectured on topics ranging from colonial portraiture to period interiors. A member of the installation teams for VMFA's American art galleries (2010) and the James W. and Frances Gibson McGlothlin Collection (2015), she co-authored the accompanying publications, *American Art at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts* (2010) and *A Promise Fulfilled: The James W. and Frances Gibson McGlothlin Collection of American Art* (2015). Her most recent projects include "Collecting for the Commonwealth: Celebrating a Century of Art Patronage at VMFA, 1919-2018," an exhibition and catalog prepared for the 2018 Winter Antiques Show in New York; and "A Return to the Grand Tour: Micromosaic Jewels from the Collection of Elizabeth Locke," an exhibition with catalog opening in 2019.

Elizabeth Locke draws on a lifelong fascination with the antique jewelry of the Etruscans, Greeks and Romans as she creates her own neo-classical hand-made 19k gold jewelry. She selects every stone and designs every piece herself. While many covet the luminescent stones or the Venetian glass intaglios in her designs, Elizabeth's deepest passion is for one-of-a-kind antiquities:

19th century micromosaics and pietra duras, 18th century Chinese gambling counters, Essex crystals, miniature paintings or antique Japanese porcelain buttons.

Her personal collection of more than 100 micromosaics, many reset in her hand-hammered 19k gold, are a traveling exhibit that is part of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' permanent collection. Elizabeth Locke speaks to museums and garden clubs across the United States, combining her business adventures (and misadventures) and her love of gardening with a discussion of her creative process in a presentation titled "The Accidental Jeweler."

The search for the perfect bit of history to incorporate into her designs takes Elizabeth flying

around the globe to European markets, antique shows and auctions in what she terms the "continual treasure hunt." The antique porcelain button turns into a pendant and the 2,000-year-old coin transforms into a ring, continuing Elizabeth's artistic vision and the craftsmanship of 30 Thai goldsmiths dedicated to bringing her designs to life using centuries old goldsmithing techniques.

Working as a contributing editor for *Town and Country* magazine, Elizabeth's story on shopping in Bangkok turned out to be a life-altering event that eventually led her to a degree in gemology and her life's vocation. She began Elizabeth Locke Jewels in 1988, relying on her experiences abroad and fueled by her visual sensibility. The business took off, thanks to her blend of entrepreneurial spirit and artistry.

Today, *Elizabeth Locke Jewels* has two flagship stores: One in Manhattan and another in Boyce, Virginia. Elizabeth's jewelry also is available through Neiman Marcus and select independent boutiques across the country.

In addition, the Fine Arts & Flowers 2024 Honorary Chairs will be announced and introduced. The lecture will be followed by an optional luncheon in the Marble Hall. Mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss this event!



Parrot, Rome, 19th century, unidentified artist, micromosaic set in gold as a pendant, with four sets of 4-mm tsavorite and 2.7-mm demantoid garnets on bezel, 50 x 45 mm. Collection of Elizabeth Locke

Photo by Travis Fullerton, © Virginia Museum of Fine Arts



Announcing Fine Arts and Flowers 2024

**Wednesday, October 23 -
Sunday, October 27, 2024**

Fine Arts and Flowers 2024 will be a spectacular museum-wide exhibition of floral designs inspired by works in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts collections.

Presented by The Council of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, with creative floral designs by The Garden Club of Virginia, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, and Ikebana of Richmond.

Special Events for Fine Arts and Flowers 2024

All Fine Arts and Flowers events are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend. *

The five-day celebration will kick off with the amazing creation of some 70 floral interpretations in the Atrium on Wednesday followed that evening by a dazzling Gala celebrating the fantastic floral works throughout the museum. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday the special art and floral related events will include renowned guest speakers, luncheons, a fashion show-luncheon featuring designs by students from Virginia Commonwealth University, floral design workshops, exhibition tours, and curator talks. Sunday will conclude with a variety of fun family activities.

Proceeds from Fine Arts & Flowers sponsorships and ticket sales will support the ongoing research, development, and installation of exceptional exhibitions. Special exhibitions have a profound effect, attracting new visitors, inspiring public programs, and educational offerings, and highlighting the scholarship of Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' curators. With the planned addition of the James W. and Frances G. McGlothlin Wing II, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts will gain a second major exhibition space, ensuring that there is always a world-class exhibition on view for our visitors.

Frank Dellinger and Jim Schuyler

Co-chairs of the Fine Arts and Flowers 2024 Marketing and Promotion Committee

** Some special events and programs will have admission fees and tickets may be required.*



Thank you, VMFA Council Volunteers!!
You volunteered a total of **14,172 hours**
from July 1, 2022 – June 23, 2023

Every hour you give is so important and appreciated!
Please take a few minutes and click [here](#)
to update your hours in Volgistics today.

This is the first of three Special Editions of Council Connections. The next Special Edition is scheduled for the fall. The regular Council Connections will return in mid-July.

We welcome your feedback about this edition and your suggestions for what you would like to see included in the next edition.

Please contact Co-Editors, Linda Gill (lagill@verizon.net) or Diane Barbour (dbarb9214@aol.com).

Thank you to Gail Gilmore, Contributor for Special Edition Council Connections.