

2023 Community Arts Grant Panelists

Ara Beal (she/her/hers) is a theatre practitioner, former Executive Director, and nonprofit coach. With degrees from Wittenberg University and Miami University, she has worked in Dayton, southern California, Maryland, and Cleveland, Ohio. Among her successes is the founding of YS Giving Tuesday, a collaborative Giving Tuesday campaign in Yellow Springs that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for dozens of nonprofits over the last five years. She recently founded Greene River Consulting, focused on coaching primarily small, younger organizations on finance and funding through workshops, one-on-one coaching, and grant writing. She also has a special interest in supporting first-time executive directors, building on her experiences of taking over two organizations from founders. She has served on the Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce Board, the Yellow Springs Arts and Culture Commission, and as a grant reviewer for Culture Works, Arts Midwest, and the Ohio Arts Council.

Rachel Goodspeed wears multiple hats as founder and principal consultant of GOODSpeed Strategies, owner and operator of her small farm, Goodspeeds R&R, and public affairs officer for the 655th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing. Passionate about telling stories and cultivating relationships, Rachel has worked in strategic communications and community relations for over 20 years for state government, military, nonprofit, and corporate entities.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts in English from Texas A&M University (2004) and a Master of Arts in Communications from Ellis University (2010). Rachel is an avid community supporter, serving on multiple boards and committees across the Dayton region.

In her spare time, Rachel enjoys hands-on projects on the farm she owns with her husband and two children, training for her next marathon, trail riding with her horses, or jetting off on another adventure with her family.

Furaha Henry-Jones is an English professor and African American Studies Certificate Program faculty at Sinclair College. She served as the Sinclair Poet Laureate from 2017-2021 and received the Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award for Poetry in 2018. She has contributed to her college's Theater department as a dramaturg, and she has worked as a narrator, performer, and host at various local arts events. Additionally, she has been a grant writer for a local arts nonprofit.

Erin Morgan Smith Glenn is an associate professor of art, former VP of the board for the Dayton Society of Artists, and proud alum of Central State University. She holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Cincinnati. Erin has exhibited works in Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Louisiana, Vermont, Texas, Virginia, and Illinois, including numerous solo exhibitions. Erin is also the creator and faculty lead for the Fine Arts Study Abroad program, which has covered Italy (2022) and now Paris (2023).

Among Erin's lifelong pursuits is to continually practice her overall creative experiences, vowing never to stop "growing as an artist and individual," while always striving to instill this concept in her students and her three children, as she does within herself.

When not participating as an educator or practitioner, TheScarvinArtist LLC occupies much of her entrepreneurial time, as she accepts painting and drawing commissions and creates unique crocheted and other artisanal designs and mixed media projects. Etsy, Instagram, and Facebook have been her main platforms for showcasing her business exploits.

Follow the gravitational pull within you that leads to a life of consistent growth and development through the pursuant act of creative imagination.

Erin M Smith Glenn

2023 Community Arts Grant Financial Reviewers

Culture Works would also like to thank **this year's Financial Reviewers**, who supported the efforts of the grant panel by reviewing applicants' financial materials and providing a recommended Financial Health Score for each application.

Jim Kohls, CPA and business owner.

Dave Stacy, CPA, inactive; retired CFO.