Ohio Humanities Announces New Chair, Members of Board of Directors

COLUMBUS, OH—Ohio Humanities Executive Director Pat Williamsen announced this week the election of a new Chair and three new members of the Board of Directors for Ohio Humanities. “Our new board members bring unique passions for history, education, and heritage tourism to the helm of Ohio Humanities,” said Williamsen. “We look forward to working with these new members as we continue to advance cultural programming across Ohio that shares the human story.”

Kevin Rose, who previously served as the board's Vice Chair and is an architectural historian and Director of Revitalization for The Turner Foundation in Springfield, Ohio, was elected Chairman. Also joining the board of Ohio Humanities are Katherine Fell, President of the University of Findlay, Daniel Moder, Executive Director of Explore Licking County, and Harold Niehaus, Career Connections Director for the Preble County Educational Service Center.

Rose holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Wittenberg University and a Master of Arts in Interpretive Studies from the University of Leicester in England. He is a member of numerous cultural organizations in Springfield, including the Westcott Center for Architecture and Design and Friends of the Hartman Rock Garden, and founder of the Springfield Summer Tour Series, and the Lillian Gish Film Festival. Rose also serves on the boards of Heritage Ohio and the Victorian Society in America.

Fell was appointed to the board last month by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. She earned a Ph.D. in English at Texas A&M University, an M.A. in English from Louisiana Tech University, and a B.S.E. in English from Southern Arkansas University. Serving as Findlay’s president since 2010, she has led the campus through an Identity, Vision Setting, and Strategic Planning Process and supported the development of 15 new academic programs. Fell served on the board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and currently serves on the boards of Raise the Bar Hancock County and Ohio Campus Compact, the executive committee of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio, and as Chair of the Presidents Council of the Great Midwest Athletic Conference.
Moder holds a degree in Education from the Ohio State University. A leader in Ohio's travel industry, he has previously served on the Board of Directors for the Licking County Governmental Preservation Society and as co-chair of the Newark rebrand initiative. He currently serves on the boards of the Ohio Travel Association and Licking County United Way.

Niehaus is an educational and community leader who serves on the Preble County Historical Society Board, Preble County Retired Teacher Association, Preble County Council on Aging, Friends of Preble County 4H, and is an Eaton Rotary club member. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Dayton and an M.S. and B.S. from the Ohio State University. Niehaus has taught as an Adjunct Professor at Southern State Community College, and received his Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent certificates from the University of Dayton.

Ohio Humanities board members serve as advocates for the public humanities by promoting the mission and vision of Ohio Humanities to sustain vibrant communities and foster lifelong learning. Terms of service are two years, with appointments beginning on November 1 of each year. More information can be found on our website at ohiohumanities.org/about/board.