



Heritage Saskatchewan Alliance Inc.

NOMINATIONS RESULTS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

February 27, 2020

Western Development Museum – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Candidates for Acclamation
to the Board of Directors**

Chad Debert*
Gloria DeSantis*
Erin Folk*
Emma Morris*
Tamara Pearl
Haven Rees
Kathleen Willie

**Returning to the Board for a second 2-year term.*

Those Directors returning to the Board, and going into the second year of a 2-year term include:

Bula Ghosh
Tomasin Playford
Elaine Smit
Alicia Buckley

*Alicia Buckley automatically becomes Past President.
The positions of President & Vice-President
are determined by the Board at their first Board meeting,
immediately following the AGM.*



Chad Debert

Chad's work and volunteer history has afforded him participation with a variety of municipal, provincial, and federal cultural organisations in a number of capacities. Community planning, strategic planning, policy governance, museum policy and exhibit development, and museum collection management are just a few such capacities.

Chad has been part of the Saskatchewan cultural community since 1999 when he moved to the province from BC. He served as Executive Director of the Biggar Museum and Gallery, Museum Technician for the Western Development Museum in Moose Jaw, Preparator for the RCMP Historical Collections Unit and, for the past eight years, Assistant Manager at Government House in Regina.

During his stay in Biggar, he was heavily involved in the local cultural and economic development community. His community board experience included the Biggar & District Arts Council, the Majestic Theatre, New Creation Community Players, the Bear Hills Economic Development Office, and the Biggar & District Community Foundation.

Chad became involved with the Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) and served as a board member for five and half terms over 16

years, including a term as President. Along with MAS board member duties, he was active in that association's networks and learning collectives; served as a grant program jury member; and was also the interim Executive Director for a year. In his role as MAS President, he was involved at the national level with the Canadian Museums Association; and participated on SaskCulture's Heritage Committee, which was the precursor to the formation of Heritage Saskatchewan.

Chad's personal interests include taking in any number of cultural experiences. He has been known to create the odd drawing or painting and he has performed in a musical (though likely not to be repeated). He greatly values the heritage community and its many facets. He is a firm believer in consensus and the value of learning from our past to better inform and realise the future. Chad has a strong grasp of Policy Governance language and concepts, thanks to his experiences keeping Heritage Saskatchewan tracking in a positive direction.

Chad is often astounded by the work accomplished by Heritage Saskatchewan, and has thoroughly enjoyed being part of such an exciting and forward-thinking organisation. The importance of living heritage cannot be overstated. Heritage Saskatchewan continues to strongly promote and embody living heritage along with helping to generate and compile much needed data for the industry. Chad looks forward to returning to the Heritage Saskatchewan Board for a second 2-year term.



Gloria DeSantis

Gloria has a keen and longstanding curiosity about “community”. From her early childhood growing up in a northern Ontario village, to her undergraduate years focusing on community psychology and geography, throughout graduate school training in social planning and into the non-academic world, Gloria’s interests and subsequent skills development have focused heavily on building communities. These communities have been geographic (i.e. neighbourhood development), psychological (i.e. shared interest such as a commitment to social justice), and cultural (i.e. shared identities) in nature.

The main feature of Gloria’s life work over the past 30 years has been the non-profit sector. She has worked as the Executive Director of a non-profit community-based research organisation, the Manager of an urban self-help centre, the Director of Research at a community planning council, and a Senior Socio-Health Planner. In these various jobs, she facilitated participatory action research, program planning, and public policy development to build healthier communities. More recently, her interest in the sustainability and vitality for the sector led her to facilitate the development of the Voluntary Sector Studies Network and a new undergraduate certificate at Luther College at the University of Regina. Based on these various experiences, Gloria has skills and knowledge that she brings to the Heritage Saskatchewan board.

Her main areas of interest include the non-profit sector, community wellbeing/cultural continuity, community development, social movements, and collective public policy advocacy for social justice. She teaches courses focused on these concepts as

the University of Regina in the Justice Studies Department as an Assistant Professor.

Gloria has worked and volunteered at national, provincial, and local levels. She is currently the President of the Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research, which is the only national scale association of its type in Canada. At the provincial level, she has done advocacy work with the Museums Association of Saskatchewan and was a founding member of Poverty Free Saskatchewan. At the local level, Gloria has worked with organisations such as the Indian Head Grand Theatre and the Regina Regional Intersectoral Committee regarding the determinants of community wellbeing.

All of these experiences shape Gloria’s interest in heritage for the benefit of Saskatchewan residents. From the beautiful prairie landscape in the south to the boreal region in the north, to the rural and urban communities, to the diversity of people and cultures, she sees much to be preserved. More specifically, she is fascinated by the potential role of ecomuseums as a newer movement for preserving communities. Further, she has begun to wonder about the role of the non-profit sector within the realm of cultural heritage. There is a long legacy of this sector in Saskatchewan and Gloria’s research in this area shows interesting patterns of behaviour (both good and bad) that persist today. She cares deeply about “community” and believes in Heritage Saskatchewan’s vision: “Heritage is a valued and dynamic legacy that contributes to our sense of identity, creates an understanding of our past, is used to build communities in the present, and informs our choices for the future.”



Erin Folk

Erin is a veteran of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. She was born and raised in rural southern Saskatchewan in a mixed farming/ranching pioneer family. Erin learned an appreciation for culture and heritage through a close relationship with her grandmother, who taught her many aspects of the family's cultural background.

Erin also learned to appreciate the Indigenous history of Saskatchewan through a close relationship with the land she grew up on. There were many forays into the prairie on exploration missions, where she encountered and learned to cherish the signs and sites of Indigenous occupation and way of life on the prairies.

Erin is currently engaged in work that champions the improvement of diversity and inclusion. As a province with a multifaceted array of beautiful

cultures and heritage, Saskatchewan needs to be on the forefront of acceptance and encouragement for diversity. Erin works hard every day to help achieve this vision.

Erin is a member of three Boards, including one she incorporated as a non-profit for her own community in an effort to bring residents together to address common concerns and provide a viable future for the community. She upholds governance principles, and understands the importance of policy adherence, as well as flexibility and respect in management.

Erin is happy to use her knowledge, skills and experience to continue to support the Heritage Saskatchewan Board of Directors in the coming years, and looks forward to working with the Board for a second 2-year term.

Emma Morris

Emma's academic, professional and volunteer experience have provided her with an excellent understanding of the field, standards and practices, and the role of Heritage Saskatchewan within the province.

Emma is a new mom and is currently on maternity leave from her role as Community Consultant for Art and Cultural Heritage with the City of Regina. In this role, she works to maintain the City's cultural collections. She also works to help the people of Regina ensure that their values are reflected through the City's art, monuments, heritage, interpretation, and policies.

Emma's passion is for the expression of culture and arts in Saskatchewan to create and maintain a sense of identity and pride in all people who call this province home. Furthermore, she hopes that through embracing and expressing our diverse cultures, we will succeed in creating a vibrant province that not only provides a unique tourism opportunity, but also will become an enriching and fulfilling place to live and belong.

Emma has thoroughly enjoyed her term on the Board and looks forward to serve Saskatchewan's diverse heritage communities in this capacity for a second 2-year term.



Tamara Pearl

As a Nēhiyaw iskwew from One Arrow First Nation in Treaty 6 territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis, Tamara is passionate about contributing with an Indigenous lens. She looks forward to the opportunity to use her legal and research skills to contribute to the ongoing work of the Heritage Saskatchewan Board.

Tamara is currently in the final process of editing and chapter revision of her Masters of Law (LLM) thesis. As well, she is in collaboration with a potential supervisor to create an interdisciplinary PhD special case project with a focus on Law, Community Engagement, and Sociology with an Indigenous feminist lens at the University of Saskatchewan.

Before entering the LLM program in 2017, Tamara worked full-time as the Executive Assistant to one of the Commissioners at the

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, where she provided research and organised information to assist the Commissioners in a broad-based and time-pressured project. She has also worked as a Research Assistant on various community health projects.

Tamara has a variety of interest in the law, but also has a background in anthropology & archaeology and looks forward to contributing in a collegial and like-minded environment on the Heritage Saskatchewan Board. She is able to transition between communities that are often seen as divided or segregated within the province and has the ability to look at problems from multiple perspectives.

Tamara is the mother of a ten-year-old daughter and enjoys experiencing the world through her eyes.





Haven Rees

Haven is a lifelong resident of Saskatchewan, originally from the RM of Fertile Valley, and has always had a keen interest in various categories of heritage, including the built, natural, and cultural aspects that are unique to the province. Her interest in heritage was first kindled by involvement in a restoration project of a building originally built in 1912. She was further interested in cultural heritage through her participation in western and Métis fiddle culture, which is a unique style of music specific to western Canada.

Haven has since gone on to pursue an undergraduate degree in Regional and Urban Planning as well as a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. Both educational experiences have granted her a solid foundation in community-based policy-making and an in-depth knowledge of organisational decision-making and governance models. Her professional experiences have encouraged an interest in pursuing heritage-related projects.

Several work appointments and contract positions have included work that is complementary to the existing work of Heritage Saskatchewan. Her current position with the City of Saskatoon's Planning & Development department supports the city's Civic Heritage Policy and administers municipal heritage property designations.

Haven's volunteer efforts have also complemented her interest in heritage, with her most relevant experiences including involvement with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. Haven has been selected as a member for the Youth Advisory Committee for CCUNESCO for two consecutive terms beginning in 2016; has held positions of Chair and Vice-Chair within the Steering Committee for this group; and has participated in many initiatives with the organisation including review of publications for the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities.

Haven looks forward to contributing to the Heritage Saskatchewan Board and the advancement of heritage work within this province and beyond.





Kathleen Willie

Kathleen (Katie) Willie is a graduate student in archaeology at the University of Saskatchewan. She obtained her B.Sc. Honours in Archaeology in 2018 and began her Master of Arts studies under the supervision of Dr. Ernie Walker in the autumn of 2019. For her graduate research, she studies Plains zooarchaeology at the Wolf Willow site at Wanuskewin. She is using this archaeological research as a different way of viewing the bison restoration efforts that are occurring across the Great Plains. Archaeology gives Katie a way of working in both science and social science, exploring the history of past peoples and cultures.

Katie currently works at Wanuskewin as the Archaeology Interpreter. She began working at the park in 2017 as their first Archaeology Interpretive Guide, brought on to deliver tours about the archaeological significance and history of the park, an aspect previously less available to the public. She has worked to develop programs, lead tours, and engage with visitors of all ages from around Saskatchewan, elsewhere in Canada, and worldwide. She has learned about making a meaningful connection with people and the many ways in which we can interpret prehistoric and historic events and places. She has learned about how we teach history and how people are truly interested in learning about the land that they are living on.

Throughout her time working at Wanuskewin, Katie has grown in her role and expanded her duties. She writes grant applications to many organisations to secure funding for the interpretive staff summer positions in the Visitor Services Department and helps others with their grant applications. She works on reporting for many different grants that Wanuskewin is awarded throughout the year, including staffing and cultural funding grants. Katie has also taken on the role of

Tour Coordinator and has scheduled over one year's worth of tours – maximising interpretive staff time and resource while benefitting as many students and tourists as possible. Additionally, she has worked extensively on program development and the amelioration of Wanuskewin's existing programs. This experience has helped Katie to understand the process of education and using multiple ways to teach a single topic, as well as budgetary concerns and limitations for programming. She has also been able to assist in exhibit and display curation, creating interpretive product with factually accurate descriptions for people to handle when not in guided programs.

Knowing where we come from is an important part of knowing who we are as people today. By preserving and protecting our heritage – the built, oral, archaeological, and environmental heritage – we are better able to educate people. Heritage is a part of who we are and it needs to be both protected and shared. Katie believes that educating people in a way that is engaging, approachable, and impactful leads to greater interest and caring. When people are interested in and care about something, they will fight to protect it for generations into the future, making for a better future for all. This the approach that Katie has taken through her work at Wanuskewin and through her schooling and is what she would bring to the Heritage Saskatchewan Board.

People are innately interested in knowing more about where they live and where they come from, but do not always know what exactly that means or how to learn more. Through meaningful and impactful education, we will be able to have a future that not only knows about the history and prehistory of the land and the people living on it, but one that actively seeks to protect and preserve it at all costs.