



FLCT Board of Trustees 2017-2018

Karen Ash, Chair



Karen is from Miami where she began her career in education. She has worked as a classroom teaching and Literacy Coach and taught courses Miami Dade College. Currently, a Regional Coordinator for the Florida Department of Education, she trains hundreds of teachers and administrators impacting thousands of students. As a member of Florida Council for Teachers of English (FCTE), Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), National Middle School Association (NMSA) and International Reading Association (IRA), Karen has presented at many education conferences, both home and abroad. She has also written several articles published in various education magazines and journals. Her daughter Aleyna has taken classes and been in numerous productions at FLCT. When she is not working in schools and helping out at the theatre, Karen enjoys traveling and spending time with her family.

"The whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening the natural curiosity of young minds for the purpose of satisfying it afterwards." Anatole France

Rachel LeBlanc, Vice Chair



Rachel LeBlanc practices in the areas of commercial litigation and class action defense as an associate at Shutts & Bowen LLP and is admitted to practice law in Florida and Tennessee. Additionally, Ms. LeBlanc has successfully handled numerous international child abduction cases on a pro bono basis, resulting in over 100 hours of pro bono service per year since 2008. She earned her J.D. from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, graduating magna cum laude. Ms. LeBlanc has been active in Leadership Broward, Class XXVI, the Florida Bar Association and the American Bar Association, and is a Big Sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Broward County. As an advocate of children and the arts, Ms. LeBlanc is honored and excited to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees.

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up." Pablo Picasso

Gina Fernandez, Secretary



Gina Fernandez is a retired public safety dispatcher and mother of two daughters. Both daughters have been in dozens of performances throughout South Florida and continue to work in the field of arts and entertainment. Gina has been married to her soul mate for 26 years, Louie Fernandez, Assistant Fire Chief for Miami-Dade. Gina enjoys traveling, reading, scrapbooking, and spending time with her family. As an active volunteer in our community for several years, Gina served as a Girl Scout Leader and has also served on the Board of Directors for her local homeschool support group, Broward Homeschoolers Parent Support Group in Broward County. Gina is currently an active member and volunteers with her church, and is looking forward to serving on the Board.

"Do the things that interest you and do them with all your heart." Eleanor Roosevelt

John A. Brugos, Treasurer



Originally from Pittsburgh, John Brugos has lived in Florida since 1975. An avid supporter of the arts, he has helped numerous cultural and community organizations fundraise and connect with each other, and received the ArtServe Star Award in 2008 for being an outstanding volunteer in the arts community. John previously served on the Board of The Little Palm Family Theatre in Boca Raton, as well as other non-profit Boards. John is currently the Group Sales Manager for Flamingo Gardens in addition to being a former manager of Fort Lauderdale's premier fondue restaurant, "The Melting Pot," where he worked for 16 years and where he has received national recognition for his marketing accomplishments. John is proud of his ongoing support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and looks forward to using his creativity and boundless energy as a Board Trustee for FLCT.

"Art is an expression of life!" Anonymous

Scott B. Roberts, Past Chair



Scott B. Roberts is the President/CEO of First Southeast Mortgage Corporation and First Colonial Realty specializing in Mortgage Lending, Real Estate, and Property Management. Scott was born in Florida, grew up in Hollywood, graduated with a B.S. and B.A. from the University of Florida and earned an M.B.A. from Nova Southeastern University. Scott currently or has served in leadership positions in the following organizations: Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Hollywood, Leadership Broward Foundation, NSU Huizenga Business School Entrepreneur's Council, Broward Resource League, Broward Outreach Homeless Shelter, and the City of Hollywood Planning/Zoning and Development Board. Scott recently was awarded the STUEY Award as Alumni of the Year for Nova Southeastern University and was named "Best of Financial Businesses," in addition to numerous other awards and recognition for his community service. Scott's son, Zack, works in advertising in South Florida, stepson Daniel Greene, is attending the University of Michigan, and stepson Jacob Greene, attends American Heritage School. Scott is proud to be the Chair of FLCT. Scott lives with Heather in Hollywood, Florida.

*"Often times the poet or artist does not see, feel, or comprehend the absolute depth of their own poetry."
Sandy Roberts*

Continue below for bios of the complete Board of Trustees.

Carmen Edelson



Carmen Edelson was born in Caibarien, Cuba and as a toddler, moved to New Jersey where she was raised. In 1993, she settled in South Florida and is proud to call it home! Carmen has 25 years of business experience in the construction and building security industries, predominantly in credit, accounting, and finance. Additionally, she worked as an event planner, which she still enjoys doing when the opportunity presents itself. She married her husband John in 2008, has one daughter Ariana, and is a step mom to Kate and David. Carmen's husband John is the founder of Time4Learning, a children's online education company. When Carmen is not volunteering in the kids' schools, she is busy organizing and planning family events. She is an active travel blogger at www.carmensluxurytravel.com

"The stage is not merely the meeting place of all the arts, but is also the return of art to life." Oscar Wilde

Sasha Formica



Sasha Formica was born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, FL. More specifically, raised at none other than Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre. Sasha started classes at FLCT when she was just 8 years old, since then was a part of more than 50 productions, worked as a camp counselor and Executive Assistant. Sasha set off to college at Florida State University where she maintained a long distance relationship with her FLCT family. Because of the values instilled in her while growing up in a non-profit environment she sought work at Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida as a Development Associate and later a Special Events Coordinator, leading tremendous fundraising projects in the South Florida area. Most recently Sasha has joined the "be nice" restaurant group as their Director of Marketing Events.

"Creativity is contagious, pass it on!" Albert Einstein

Jason S. Gibson



Jason S. Gibson, Esq. practices in the area of real estate law as the Associate General Counsel, EquityOne, Inc in Miami, Florida. Mr. Gibson has been an active member of various community organizations, including: American Bar Association, Delegate to the Young Lawyers' Division Assembly; National Bar Association; Leadership Fort Lauderdale, Class XIII; Leadership Broward, Class XXVII; Harvard Club of Miami, Vice President; and the All Ivy + Club of South Florida. He earned his J.D. cum laude from the University of Miami, where he was the recipient of the Soia Mentschikoff Scholarship and listed in the Who's Who Among American Law Students. Mr. Gibson received his A.B. cum laude in economics from Harvard in 1999. Mr. Gibson is also proficient in Spanish. His hobbies include swimming, dancing, and singing.

"Creativity takes courage..." Henri Matisse

Gregg Goldstein



Born in South Florida, and raised in the Boston area, Gregg came back to his birthplace in 2003 and hasn't left. Gregg is a graduate of Ithaca College with a B.A. in Speech Communications and double minors in Advertising/PR and Organizational Communication. He also has a M.S. in Management with a focus in Leadership from NSU. He is married to Margot, and has twin boys, Evan and Myles. Gregg is the Director of Client and Community Relationships at AdServices Inc, a full service marketing and advertising agency in Hollywood. While managing a list of over 200 clients, he also leads the Client Development Team in strategy, goal setting, and execution. As a lifelong learner, he is actively attending seminars, webinars, and workshops to increase his knowledge in various areas of sales and marketing. Gregg is a recent graduate of Leadership Broward XXXIV, and serves on Executive Boards throughout the community including the Exceptional Theatre Company (ETC) and Place of Hope at The Haven Campus in Boca Raton.

"The EARTH Without ART Is Just EH." Anonymous

Diane LaVault



Originally from Pennsylvania, Diane has called Florida home for almost 50 years. A dedicated art teacher at Lauderhill Paul Turner Elementary School for decades, Diane recently retired from teaching and is now volunteering throughout the community more than ever. Diane has been involved with Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre so long she could be considered our resident historian! All of her children were involved with FLCT and, to this day, theatre remains a big part of their lives. Diane continues to be active in many of the outreach events at FLCT as well as serving on the Board of Trustees.

"Art is not made for anybody and is, at the same time, for everybody." Piet Mondrian

Sean Lennon



Sean Lennon is the Senior Vice President & Chief Information Officer of Allergan plc. a \$23 billion global pharmaceutical company. Sean is a visionary leader who drives transformation of global, multi-billion dollar organizations from the inside out. He's pushed Allergan to become the fastest-growing, most dynamic pharmaceutical company in global healthcare, successfully directing integration and divestiture activities for 40+ acquisitions and divestitures since 2010. Sean also has extensive operational and financial experience, overseeing all IT Financial Planning and Analysis, leading IT business plan development, financial forecasting, financial analysis, and capital commitment planning, as well as competitive analysis and benchmarking. Extremely customer-focused, Sean has extensive experience working internationally, having traveled to and done business in more than 50 countries worldwide. He sits on several advisory committees and has received numerous industry honors and recognitions for leadership in delivering innovative technology solutions. NJ Tech Council recently named Sean 2015 "CIO of the Year." Sean holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and Business Management from St. John's University in New York. His daughters Morgan and Sydney, and wife Jackie are all active members of the FLCT family.

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time." Thomas Merton

Jeff Roschman



Jeff Roschman is a private equity investor for his own account for over 20 years. His investments have covered a wide breadth of industries including financial services, real estate, hospitality, technology, and multi-media. Mr. Roschman is currently Chairman of Landmark Bank, NA, a federally chartered bank with assets in excess of \$300 million. Mr. Roschman has also developed over 100 commercial properties including restaurants, shopping centers, drug stores, office space and other retail locations. Mr. Roschman holds a Bachelors Degree in Finance from the University of Florida. His daughters, Taylor and Caroline are both active with FLCT, and Taylor is now at UCF.

"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes, Art is knowing which ones to keep." Scott Adams

Jorge Saenz



Born in Guayaquil Ecuador, Jorge moved to the US in 1987 to pursue a graduate education in Business. He's been married to Jacqueline Brubaker for 25 years and has three children: David, Natalie, and Nicolas. The Saenz family has resided in Weston, FL since 1997. An Electrical Engineer by training, Jorge's professional career has evolved around technology, operations, and strategy. He works for Ingersoll Rand, where he leads operations, and strategy. He works for Ingersoll Rand, where he leads technological developments targeted at optimizing the supply of chain food and other perishable products around the world. Jorge enjoys outdoor activities with his family, especially volleyball, scuba diving, and a beautiful day at the beach. He loves to see Nicolas performing on stage; and he's grateful to the FLCT family for the opportunity to serve this wonderful organization.

"To think creatively, we must be able to look afresh at what we normally take for granted." George Kneller

Dr. Kenneth Stevenson



Dr. Kenneth Stevenson has enjoyed working at Broward College for eleven years and recently retired as the Associate Vice President for Development at Broward College, Office of Advancement, yet is staying on at the College as a consultant. He recently began his own Organizational Advancement and Fundraising company, Ken Stevenson and Associates, LLC . Prior to joining Broward College, Dr. Stevenson worked as the Executive Director of Enrollment at New York University, School of Continuing and Professional Studies. Dr. Kenneth Stevenson earned his Doctorate of Philosophy in Psychotherapy from Adelphi University, Long Island, NY.

"Art isn't easy!" Stephen Sondheim

Barbara Venkataraman



A Florida native, Barbara Venkataraman is a family law attorney and certified mediator who practices under her maiden name of Barbara Markley. As an active volunteer in our community for 20 years, Barbara served as president of the Board of Directors of "Learn to Read Volunteers of Broward" and also tutored an illiterate adult through that program. In addition, she tutored children at the "Charlee House," a group foster home, and was a "Big Sister" to an underprivileged child through Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Broward, winning their "Big Sister of the Year" award. Barbara has always loved theater and became involved with Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre when her son was cast in a play. She is proud to be part of such a wonderful organization and is honored to serve on the Board.

"When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece." John Ruskin