

2023 Slate of Candidates

Vice President / President-elect

Matt Francis

Treasurer

Shelby Beatty

Council

Kristen Newby

The following statements were given by the candidates seeking election as officers or council members to the Society of Ohio Archivists in 2023. Voting will take place at the annual meeting being held May 12, 2023.

Candidates were asked to answer all questions in one 350-500-word essay.

What skills and experiences can you offer to SOA?

Tell us about your past experience with professional organizations that would make you a good fit for this position.

What are some of the most important themes/issues the SOA should address in the next 3-5 years?

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS



Vice President / President-elect

Matt Francis

Archivist, Ohio Northern University

I am honored to have been nominated for the position of Vice-President/President-Elect with the Society of Ohio Archivists and to have the opportunity to continue serving our members through a new role. As an archivist for fifteen years, I have worked at archives in Wyoming, New York, Pennsylvania, and now Ohio. As I toured America during my archival career, I have been a member of multiple state, regional, and national professional organizations, all of which provided me with amazing opportunities to learn from, and collaborate with, brilliant colleagues involved with archival and public history work.

When I returned to Ohio in 2018, I immediately joined SOA, and shortly thereafter I was asked if I would be willing to chair the organization's membership committee. After a significant amount of consideration, I agreed to take on the role despite being nervous about taking on a leadership role when I was so new to our organization. Luckily, it turned out that I was surrounded by dedicated individuals who helped me transition into the leadership role, and then continued to be amazing colleagues every step of the way. Since then, I have been privileged to additionally serve as co-chair of the recently merged Membership & Awards Committee, and now as co-chair of the Educational Programming Committee. While serving in these positions I have worked to support goals set forth by SOA Council, while also trying to help push SOA to be an inclusive organization that provides meaningful value to our membership. It is my hope that if elected that I will be able to build on these experiences, along with my past service to other

archival and public history organizations as I serve SOA in a new role.

As I reflect back on my time with SOA, I see an organization that has not been afraid to evolve to try to meet the needs of our membership, and the larger society that we serve. More importantly, I see an organization that is not afraid to look at itself critically as it works to continually improve its operations and programming. Now, as we continue to emerge from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we find ourselves at another natural point of reflection and transition. Thus, if I am provided with the privilege to continue serving SOA as the Vice-President/President-Elect, I would collaborate with our leadership and our broader community to continue building on the work that is currently taking place, while keeping a focus on our organizational sustainability, continued efforts to further democratize our organization, and working to create an inclusive and responsive environment for all members. To be clear, there will be challenging conversations and potentially difficult decisions to be made as we continue to evolve, but this is a path we must continue to travel as we aspire to meet our stated values as an organization. Thank you for your consideration.

Previous Positions: *Processing Archivist, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming, 2008-2011; College Archivist, College Libraries, SUNY Potsdam, 2011-2013; Head of Collections Management, Special Collections Library, Penn State University, 2013-2017; Associate Head, Special Collections Library, Penn State University, 2017-2018*

Education: *M.A. Public History, archival administration*

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concentration, Wright State University, 2008; B.A. history, Bluffton University, 2002

Professional Associations: Society of Ohio Archivists, 2018-Present: Membership Committee, Chair, 2018-2020; Membership and Awards Committee, Co-Chair, 2020-2022; Educational Programming Committee, Co-Chair, 2022-present; Society of American Archivists, 2008-Present: Theodore Calvin Pease Award Subcommittee, 2021-2022; Mentoring

Subcommittee, 2018-2020; Annual Meeting Program Committee, 2017-2018; CFW Coker Award Subcommittee, 2014-2017; Academic Library Association of Ohio, 2018-Present; Mid-Atlantic Archives Conference, 2011-2018; Annual Meeting Program Committee, 2015-2016; New York Archives Conference, 2011-2013; Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists, 2008-2011; National Council on Public History, 2008-2011; Working Group, Historical Truths and Reconciliation: Interpreting Indigenous and Other Difficult Histories, 2008-2009



Secretary

Shelby Beatty

Archivist & Records Manager, Sinclair Community College

I'm incredibly honored to run for the Society of Ohio Archivists Secretary position. I believe my work as a records manager, past experience as Secretary

of the Wright State University Public History Professionals (2015-2016) and recording minutes for various committees at the Ohio History Connection (2017-2020) qualify me to run for this important role.

I began my archives career nearly eight years ago while working towards my Master's in Public History from Wright State University. Since that time, I've worked a variety of positions that have enhanced my organization and communication skills. My early experiences include serving as a contract Project Archivist, which required intense attention to detail, organization and time-management skills, and being extremely conscious of member ideas and deadlines for successful project completion.

In my current role as Archivist & Records Manager of Sinclair Community College, I've developed and strengthened a variety of skills. My work involves promoting sound record keeping in compliance with the Ohio Public Records Act, collecting and preserving institutional history, and promoting the archives through digitization and community outreach. I enjoy working with others to identify their records management needs and finding solutions to keep digital records effectively. I would love to assist SOA in updating its retention schedule, if needed.

SOA was incredibly instrumental in beginning my career as an archivist. I was thrilled showcase my work on using primary source materials in local school classrooms at the 2015 Spring Meeting. I was also awarded a student scholarship, which was very encouraging as a young archivist. I've made many professional connections through the society and would be delighted to serve in a SOA leadership position.

I would like to see SOA continue to support students in joining the profession. I work largely with community college students that have a long way to go in their educational journey to becoming ar-

chivists. I want to ensure these students are aware of the benefits of SOA, like the Annual Meeting and scholarship opportunities, as well as encourage new ways of bringing students into the field. This may include mentorship opportunities for students early in their education and providing information about resources, like publications and practical training sessions, to support entering the field professionally.

I also want to see SOA continue digital initiatives and assist members in finding solutions for retaining digital archival content. It can be a financial burden to acquire appropriate software, and in my experience, may also be difficult to get stakeholders on board. SOA may consider working with members to advocate for proper solutions through resources, like tip sheets and information sessions, that will help them strengthen their case.

Previous Positions: Reference Archivist, Archives & Library, Ohio History Connection, 2017-2020; Archives Intern, National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, 2016-2017; Project Archivist, Bradford Ohio Railroad Museum, 2016-2017; Project Archivist, Southwestern Ohio Bluegrass Music Heritage Project, 2016-2017; Project Archivist, Victoria Theatre Association (Dayton Live), 2015-2016

Education: M.A., Public History, concentration in Archival Administration, Wright State University, 2016; B.A., Social Science Education, Wright State University, 2014

Professional Associations: Ohio Digitization Interest Group (OhioDIG), 2023-Present; Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA), 2022-Present; National Association of Government Archives & Records Administrators (NAGARA), 2022-Present; ARMA International 2020-Present; Dayton Chapter Board Director, 2022-Present; Society of Ohio Archivists, 2015-Present; Wright State University Public History Professionals, 2014-2016; Secretary, 2015-2016; Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (MVAR), 2014-present

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Council

Kristen Newby

Special Collections Supervisor, Local History & Genealogy, Columbus Metropolitan Library

My journey to working in Ohio libraries and archives is relatively unconventional. Like all of us, I loved history, but modern history never connected with me as a student. My heart was in the ancient past, which led to a history and classics double major with a focus on the Greco-Roman world. This course provided general historical context and knowledge, and the language skills to read ancient authors in their own words. Shifting my focus to ancient art and material culture in graduate school added a new piece to the puzzle. Upon graduation, the conclusion of a grant-funded position, and the lack of job prospects (shocking, I know), I found myself back in Columbus, deep in state and local history. I quickly discovered that the only reason I never enjoyed modern history is because it was never presented to me in a way that centered the human experience and inspired inward reflection. We, as an organization and GLAM professionals, are in a unique position to use our collections to foster empathy-building by elevating underrepresented voices; using the past as a lens to better understand ourselves; and sharing the stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

Encouraging members to engage the communities we serve with the past in a way that sheds light on contemporary issues that are important to them is one area I think SOA should prioritize in the coming years. This endeavor exemplifies the field's relevance and continued importance. Another worthwhile focus area is increasing awareness of the field to younger audiences—making GLAM related fields more accessible and welcoming to underrepresented groups, developing opportunities for us to meet young people where they are, and bring to life the aspects of history that are meaningful to them. This work might take the shape of more targeted outreach developed with youth input, new or revitalized social media activity, or creative digital projects.

Although I've only been a member of SOA since 2020, I've been attending the annual meeting and other associated programming

since 2016. I've seen the organization evolve over the last seven years and I'm excited to help lead the organization as a Council member as it continues to grow and adapt. As one of the original members of the Social Justice & Black Lives Matter Task Force, I helped develop the goals and mission of the group which will guide SOA's DEAI efforts across the organization. As a member of the OhioDIG planning committee, I have built relationships with cultural heritage organizations across the state and have a solid understanding of the successes and limitations of different types and sizes of institutions. If elected to Council, I look forward to continuing to build relationships with all of you, and to learn and listen to the wisdom and experiences you share. Thank you for your consideration!

Previous Positions: *Digital Projects Coordinator, Ohio History Connection, 2019-2022; World War I Project Coordinator, Ohio History Connection, 2017-2019; Metadata Coordinator, Ohio History Connection, 2016-2017; Digitization Assistant for Online Coins of the Roman Empire (OCRE), American Numismatic Society, 2014-2015; Visual Resources Assistant, Digital Media Services, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, 2012-2014; Archival Assistant, Aphrodisias Excavations Archives, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, 2013-2014; Intern, Digital Media Department, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2013*

Education: *M.A. History of Art and Archaeology, New York University, 2014; B.A., History (major) and Classics (major), The Ohio State University, 2012*

Professional Associations: *Ohio Digitization Interest Group, member since 2016, planning committee 2019-present; Society of Ohio Archivists, member since 2020, Social Justice and Black Lives Matter Task Force 2020-2022; Library Leadership Ohio, 2021 cohort; Digital Public Library of America, Community Liaison, 2017-2018*

Archives Month Poster

The theme for this year's SOA [Archives Month poster](#) is **Transportation in Ohio**. The Advocacy and Outreach committee is highlighting archival holdings related to all aspects of Ohio transportation for the poster, which will be distributed for [Archives Month](#) in October.

Image submissions were collected through March into early April, and SOA

members can vote on their favorite submitted images to help choose what can be used in the final poster. Voting continues through April 2023 and the link to vote can be found on the SOA website.

The Society of Ohio Archivists has celebrated [Archives Month/Week](#) since 1993 and printed its first poster in 1994. SOA evolved from a

week to month-long observance in 2007. SOA's Archives Month activity is managed by the [Advocacy and Outreach](#) Committee.

View our [posters in Pinterest](#) and see blog posts tagged [Archives Month](#).

Thank You,

Society of Ohio Archivists Advocacy and Outreach Committee