



# ArtsQuest Staff Volunteer Appreciation Submissions



## **Michelle Veresink Richmond** **– Sr. Manager of Membership**

- ArtsQuest would not be ArtsQuest without its volunteers! I am so thankful for the many volunteers who make events happen. Over the years I have learned so much from our volunteers – especially when I started working for ArtsQuest on the very first day of Musikfest 2015! The volunteers truly were my guides through that festival. I had attended Musikfest throughout the years but the volunteers were the ones who immediately welcomed me to the team and showed me all of the many, many things they do to make the festival happen – including behind the scenes. Lots of very fond memories with volunteers in the old Membership & Information Booth in Festplatz, guarding our Member lounges together, and working Member events, and I look forward to making many more! Thank you, volunteers!



## **Lisa Harms – Sr. Director of Visual Arts & Education**

- I started at ArtsQuest in 2016 and spent my first Musikfest as a staff member working at every ticket booth. The volunteers trained me on everything and gave me the confidence I needed to handle the long lines efficiently and with a smile. I will never forget that first 'fest and all the wonderful memories I made working with the AQ volunteers! We appreciate you all!





# Nancy Werkheiser – Sr. Director of Marketing

- This isn't one particular story but a general note of appreciation... We can plan and strategize all we want, we can design the coolest events/venues/performance spaces, and we can execute great marketing campaigns, but I remind people everyday that it all means NOTHING if we don't have live people there to provide a great experience and a welcoming atmosphere. And that's in huge thanks to every single volunteer who are our "experience-deliverers" each and every minute of every event they volunteer for. I appreciate you all- each of you- every day and remind our teams of the same. Know that you're appreciated and thanked in small and large moments every day, way more than people actually verbalize.





# Joann Lee – VP Administration, Risk Management & Board Relations

- Our volunteers are truly the heartbeat of ArtsQuest. These incredible individuals generously offer their time to support ArtsQuest's mission of providing access to the arts and creating a vibrant, welcoming and safe atmosphere. The joy our volunteers bring is felt not only by those who attend our events but always bring a smile to my face! ArtsQuest is incredibly fortunate to the lasting impact our volunteers have on the organization, and I am incredibly grateful for the many friends I have made!







## **Dennis Gardner – Glass Studio Manager**

- Over the past 20 years the AQ glass studio has been a place that is driven by the effort, passion, and love of all of our volunteers and studio members. The support and dedication of the volunteers have made the studio a great place to work and make art.



# Emily Miljkovic – Music Programming Coordinator

• The volunteers are truly the best! One of my favorite parts about being the Levitt Season promoter rep last summer was getting to connect with them all, multiple times a week at the concerts :) Each of them are so amazing in their own way. Special thanks to Luanna for being so kind, helpful, and knowledgeable about Levitt! She is so amazing, and my biggest fan when it comes to stage intros haha – Ronda is also such an amazing supporter and is so great to work with and talk to; Rosa, Robin, and Bess are some of the kindest humans ever; Linda and Judy are incredible and I always look forward to their hugs :) I mean, what an amazing team! You can really tell how much they all care for this organization, and it does not go unrecognized. Thank you to seriously ALL of the volunteers (I truly wish I could call out everyone!) for their contributions and support of ArtsQuest and me – we couldn't do it without you all.







## **Emily Kocis** – **Director of IT & Juried Exhibitors and Beverage Operations**

- There are so many memories and contributions so thank you to all! But I look forward every year to Breakfast with St Nick with the special St Nick helpers (Shoshanna, Steph, and Rosa) who greet families, help the little ones, and pass out the presents St Nick leaves for them! We laugh, we share stories, and most importantly we have fun! While not pictured, I would be remiss if I did not mention, Mary Lou, who was unable to be with us this year but we miss you!



# Curt Mosel – Chief Operating Officer

- To Our Incredible Volunteers, From those who have generously given their time and talents for over 40 years to those experiencing their very first festival or event, thank you. Each of you plays a vital role in bringing our programs to life, and your dedication is nothing short of heroic. You are the heart of Bethlehem, the Lehigh Valley, and ArtsQuest. Your commitment helps create the vibrant, welcoming, and inspiring community we're so proud to be a part of. I and our entire staff are endlessly grateful for everything you do. With appreciation, Curt Mosel







## Shayna Super – Music Programming Director

- I truly love working with volunteers at all our events – their knowledge of ArtsQuest, desire to deliver the best event, and their passion for what we do is truly inspiring and is a constant reminder of why I'm so lucky to do what I do! So many stories to share, but I'll always remember when we had a Musikfest Cafe show that used Ticketmaster scanners and they just would not connect to the Wi-Fi (or something like that – technology, great when it works..) so Robin S. and I checked in with pencil and paper several hundred patrons for an SRO show so fast. We high-fived at the end for staying calm, being efficient, and doing it all with a smile.





## Ray Neeb – Sr. VP of Operations

- From day 1 of my career here at ArtsQuest, the volunteers have been absolutely amazing. I remember meeting all of them during committee meetings and they were a tremendous help to me in making my first Musikfest as easy as possible. The invaluable knowledge they have for our events is the success to what we do and without it there would never be able to pull off what we do.



## **Elena Ostock – Manager of Visual Arts**

- It was awesome getting to know volunteers I hadn't worked with before when we hosted the Yard Sales as we moved out of the Banana Factory in 2024. Everyone who volunteered on those was so helpful, but a special shout-out to Daniel--he was clearly having fun with it, and he was always finding ways to be helpful.(He moved so many heavy items to people's cars, pulled items down from the high shelves we couldn't reach, and so on.)

## **Joanne Garcia – Manager of Visual Arts Education & PCA Programs**

- On behalf of the Education Team, we want to thank the group of volunteers who have volunteered in our Poetry Out Loud event and assisted with school group visits! We appreciate your time, sharing your AQ stories with our students, and the energy you bring to our programs. Special shout out to Marj, Daniel, Darlene, Tom, and Stu!



## **Kaitlin Brobst – Executive Assistant to the COO**

- I am constantly in awe of the dedication of all ArtsQuest Volunteers. Their positive attitude and pleasant demeanor come across in every interaction I have with them, from Musikfest to Christkindlmarkt to Sangriafest, Musikfest Cafe shows, and everything in between. Simply put, ArtsQuest could not function without them! They are a joy to work with!

## **Anne Kimmock – Office Specialist**

- I love the AQ Volunteers!!! From my time as a part-time Front Desk Assistant at the Banana Factory to today, I've enjoyed getting to know and interacting with the volunteers. I have nothing but the utmost respect for the knowledge and dedication they bring to all facets of the AQ organization.



# Bryn Keeney – Public Relations Coordinator

- Last year was my first Musikfest as a full-time ArtsQuest employee, and although I was still settling in, the volunteers were absolutely instrumental in helping me navigate the experience. The first few days felt like a blur, but I honestly couldn't have gotten through the hustle and bustle without the support and guidance of the seasoned volunteers who were by my side every step of the way. Every interaction with you has been nothing short of positive, uplifting, and impactful. One of my most memorable moments as a staff member was volunteering at Sangriafest at Grange Park last year. I worked alongside two long-time volunteers, and we spent the day chatting about their favorite ArtsQuest events and memories. It was an incredible experience and a truly valuable moment for me as a new employee looking to make a lasting impact. I also work closely with our volunteer photographers, and I don't think they fully realize just how essential their work is to us—especially to the marketing and PR team! The photos they capture are not only incredible but also contribute so much to our efforts in promoting ArtsQuest. They truly go above and beyond. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our events, and the dedication you bring makes each one unique and memorable. Whether it's your infectious joy, the personal touches you add or the unwavering support you provide behind the scenes, you create an atmosphere that's warm, welcoming and unforgettable. Thank you for everything you do. We couldn't do it without you, and we're so lucky to have such passionate, caring individuals like you in our community.



## Letitia Quinlan – Development Coordinator

- I would like to give thanks and show my appreciation to Barb Follweiler Seitzinger. I have stood along Barb at the Main Gates at the Steel Stage almost every night, ushering in thousands of people nightly without incident for the past 2 Musikfests. She has managed the Member's Line with ease, answered questions to countless people while directing line movement smoothly, and is a true pillar at the Main Gates. She makes time to help those in need and managing those who are problematic (angry/drunken Musikfesters) with grace. I know when I stand at the Main Gates with her, there will be no worries, no matter how long (and sometimes belligerent) the lines may be. I absolutely adore Barb and got to know her well during Musikfest. Recently, I was a patron of a show at the Musikfest Cafe. I brought my mom and boyfriend to see a show and to my utter delight, Barb was volunteering that night. She was just as friendly, helpful, and showed us to our seats. I was able to observe Barb working, since we arrived early, and she was equally as genial and helpful to everyone she assisted. Barb is such a delight, and I look forward to standing beside her at the Main Gates at the Steel Stage this upcoming Musikfest!



## **Francesca Malozi – Marketing Coordinator**

- Thank you so much to all of our incredible volunteers for all that you do for ArtsQuest. Our events are so special because of all of you and your hard work and dedication that help make them run smoothy. Thank you for helping patrons and keeping such positive attitudes even when times may get stressful! We couldn't do it without you all! :)

## **Megan Bodmer – Business Development Associate**

- Thank you for generously sharing your time and being a volunteer here at ArtsQuest! When I worked shows during the Levitt Pavilion Summer Concert Series, I loved stopping by the Volunteer table and getting to chat with our volunteers. I learned a lot about their experiences, heard Musikfest stories and what being a volunteer at ArtsQuest means to them, which was very special to hear.



## **Jenn LoConte – Director of Communications**

- Offering a big THANK YOU to our volunteers in general. Without your support, we wouldn't be able to do what we do! Whether it's at Musikfest, CKM, OKT, concerts at the AQC or on the Levitt lawn and all the events in between, it's the volunteers that make it all happen! On a personal note, I'm grateful to our volunteers for making sure reporters and photographers have their credentials when they're on our campus. And, when it comes to safety, they help to make sure our festivals and events are safe for our patrons and visitors. Thank you for all you do!

## **Nicholas Carrodo – Box Office Customer Experience Manager**

- AQ Volunteers, It is hard to find words to express how thankful I am to have worked alongside you for the 6 years I've been here. From a box office standpoint, our job would not be possible without your help. Through Musikfest, Peepsfest, CKM and our many MFC shows, the patience and dedication you've shown is inspiring. I am thankful for all of the conversations we've had, all of the advice you've shared with me, and all of the ups and downs that we've been through. Your company, kindness, and friendship give all of us a reason to smile no matter how difficult a day can be. Working with you all is truly one of my favorite parts of the job. I look forward to more memories in the years ahead.



# **Kim Hein** – **Manager of Donor Relations/Development**

- I'd like to thank ALL of the amazing volunteers who put in countless hours of their time! I started tabling at Musikfest Cafe shows and quickly realized how important our volunteers are to our event attendees! I say this when I introduce any band in the Musikfest Cafe but I truly mean it – we would not be able to put on our programming without the volunteers. They really are at every single show – helping people find their seats, scanning tickets, and answering all of the questions. There have been times where people have come up to me (a full-time staff member) asking about where their seats are and I walk them right over to the volunteers who are always ready to help with a smile and they help the person much quicker than I can! I remember one of my first times tabling, there was a specific volunteer (Chris L) who was greeting everyone entering the Musikfest Cafe and he found out it was someone's first time on the ArtsQuest campus and he immediately gave a bit of history on the SteelStacks, a run down of our programming including the Levitt Season and Musikfest! I'm sure the couple will return because of that interaction alone. This happens so often with others too but I just happened to remember that one because he was so excited to tell them about what ArtsQuest/SteelStacks/Levitt does! Our volunteers are top notch and I could submit one hundred examples of a time a volunteer has gone above and beyond for us!

## **Kyle Ring** – **Operations Specialist**

- There is no feasible way anything ArtsQuest does can happen without the help of the volunteers. We are forever in dept to you for all for the countless hours of work you put in to help get all of the festivals up and running smoothly. Thank you and look forward to another year of fun and memories!

## **Nancy DeBellis** – **Event Services Manager**

- It's a pleasure working alongside all the volunteers throughout the years. They all have great smiles , humor and dedication but most of all they enjoy what they are doing and do it well. Their value to AQ is priceless. Thumbs up 👍 to all and thank you! See you soon.

## **Jerone Darden** – **Operations Specialist**

- I am just very thankful for the amazing volunteering team that we have. From the Vol who is just starting, to those that have been here longest. We could NOT do any of our amazing work without your physical or mental support!!



## **Alli Poczak** – **Programming Manager (Music)**

- Spending the Winter of 2020 working at our outdoor Christkindlmarkt with so many volunteers is one of my favorite ArtsQuest memories. Visiting Ronda in the merch tent, taking walks with Cindy, and sharing laughs with Pat, Larry, David, Tom, Vern, and so many others during such an uncertain time will always be special to me. We even rescued a cat! I'm always grateful to see the smiling faces of our Musikfest Café volunteer teams at each show. They work hard to ensure we have great customer service all while keeping a positive attitude and having fun. Thank you all for being such wonderful people!

## **Steve Ott** – **VP of Operations & External Projects**

- I've been fortunate enough to have had a long career at ArtsQuest, and over those years I have been able to work side by side with so many amazing volunteers. It is no exaggeration that they are the kindest, caring and most generous group of people I've encountered in my life. The passion and commitment that they show to making their community a better place truly warms my heart. They have made me a better person, and their community a better place with their support and I for one can not thank them enough for that!