



Textile Center
A national center for fiber art

FY20 Nominee Bios for Textile Center Board of Directors

Bernadette Christiansen



Bernadette Christiansen joined the McKnight Foundation in 2006 and serves as the vice president of finance and operations. In her role, Christiansen supports many areas of the Foundation including human resources, IT, grants management, and reception and facilities. As a member of the senior leadership team, she has worked to build a culture of inclusivity, engagement, and high performance.

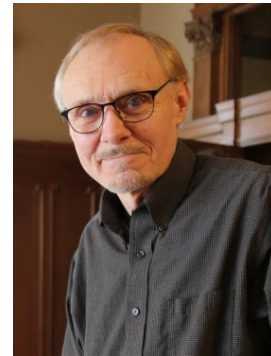
Previously, Christiansen held senior leadership positions in arts and social change organizations and worked as a consultant in organizational development and human resource management.

Christiansen has a BA in family studies from the College of Saint Benedict. A trained executive coach, she is experienced and certified in several tools including the Intercultural Development Inventory, the Myers Briggs Type Inventory, the Enneagram, and human systems dynamics.

Christiansen lives in downtown Minneapolis with her husband Paul. She is an avid reader, traveler, walker, and textile artist.

Curt Pederson

Curt Pederson has been Curator of Collections and Exhibitions at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis since 2000; beginning as a conservator for the historic Turnblad mansion. The past two decades as curator involved over 100 exhibitions collaborating with international, national and local Museums, private collections and individual artists. Curt was also involved with the planning and transition from historic house museum to the current ASI addition of the Nelson Cultural Center.



Curt also directs the Minnesota State Fair's Creative Activities Building, involving over 6,000 competition entries.

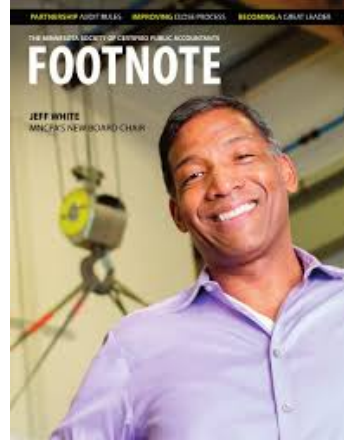
Mary Ann Schmidt

Mary Ann Schmidt grew up on a farm in southern Minnesota. She graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth campus with a BS degree in Home Economics. Mary Ann taught high school Home Economics as well as vocational education classes in cooking and sewing. She is a self-taught master quilter who has restored quilts and textiles for more than 25 years. She is currently a board member of the Colorado Quilt Council and the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum. Mary Ann has been involved with documenting and judging quilts and a founding member of the Mountain Mavericks quilting group in Evergreen, Colorado, until her move back

to Minnesota in May 2017. This group has had quilts travel to Japan in exhibits and currently displays in the Capitol in Denver, CO. She is the author of "Colorado Quilting: From Mountains to Plains"

Jeffrey J. White

Jeff is currently a sole proprietor providing accounting and tax services for small to medium sized emerging businesses and their stakeholders. Previously, he worked at J & B Equipment Company, Inc. for 20 years, with the last five years serving as Chief Executive Officer. Prior to becoming CEO at J & B, Jeff was the Controller. His areas of expertise include ERP system implementations, accounting procedures and controls, multi-state sales and use tax compliance, pension plan design, reviewing and negotiating contracts, income tax planning and compliance. Prior to joining J & B, Jeff worked for large and small public accounting firms over a 12 year period. Jeff has also held a management position in a commodities trading firm and has worked for other privately held companies in industries that include manufacturing, retail and food service. Jeff graduated with an Associate's Degree from St. Paul Technical College in 1984, achieved his CPA certificate in 1996 and his CGMA (Chartered Global Management Accountant) certificate in 2012.



Jeff is an active member of AICPA, and is currently a member of the AICPA Governing Council and the Joint AICPA/NASBA CPE Standards Committee (2019 and 2016 committees). Jeff has also served on the AICPA CPE Advisory Board Committee (Chair 2012) and was a member of the Future of Learning Task Force. He is an active member of the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants, and served on the MNCPA Board of Directors from 2011 until March 2019 (Chair 2017/2018). He also currently serves on the MNCPA Foundation Board of Directors.

Jeff is passionate about enhancing diversity and inclusion in the CPA profession and other organizations. He believes that embracing and honoring the differences in people and cultures add strength to an organization and community.