

Rachel Buckmaster

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Braydee Euliss, Executive Director
Muncie Arts and Culture Council

Dear Ms. Euliss,

I'm writing to express my interest in serving on the Board of Directors of the Muncie Arts and Culture Council and to introduce my background that positions me to contribute to this expanding arts alliance.

I was born and raised here in Muncie, Indiana. I grew up in an environment that prized arts and education, attending Burriss Laboratory School on campus while watching my mom finish her undergraduate degree and then work at Ball State University. I attended Ball State myself, and after graduating with a degree in Political Science, I left for Indianapolis in 1995.

For the next decade I put my degree to work in state and local government, ultimately in a community relations role with the Mayor's office for several years, and developed a keen interest in the ways that government and local organizations can collaborate with an energized community to create growth and foster civic engagement. After Mayor Peterson left office following the 2008 election, I decided to move on as well and pursue higher education. I was accepted to the master's program in Arts Administration and Policy at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where I would study for the next two years.

After receiving my MA, I accepted a position as part of the school administration and spent the next five years in Student Affairs working closely with art students learning to navigate the school, develop their goals, and engage in their communities. The experience deepened my appreciation for the civic contributions of artists and reinforced my personal preference to be in a creative, educational environment.

In June 2016 I returned to Muncie for reasons both professional and personal, excited to be at the David Owsley Museum of Art: From my office at DOMA I can see the hospital where I was born, the gym where I learned to swim, and artwork in the Fine Arts Building where my path into arts administration began so many years ago as a child visiting the museum.

My time working at the intersection of art, community, and lifelong learning in Indianapolis and Chicago was tremendously exciting and enriching. Part of my interest in returning to Muncie is to take the skillsets that I acquired, and the experiences that I accumulated, and share that knowledge with my hometown. It's a fascinating experience, returning after so many years, to see what has changed and the ways in which the creative community is interested in redefining itself and this city. I am encouraged as I explore this new Muncie, seeing the exciting things that are happening here while knowing of the challenges to making these things happen. It would be a pleasure and a privilege to join the MACC board and to share my expertise toward these important efforts.

Sincerely,



Rachel Buckmaster