

How Are You Managing Through the Pandemic? Panelist Biographies

Susan M. Gogan is the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of WheatonArts. Prior to accepting the directorship at WheatonArts, Gogan served on the staff for over twenty-five years. Originally a studio ceramic artist, she began assuming program administration and development roles in 1983, and gained comprehensive arts administration experience as Vice President of Programs from 1999 to 2003. She served as Interim Director of WheatonArts for a year, and was hired as the President/Executive Director in 2003. Since then she has led the organization through a critical institutional post-founder transition, guiding the board and staff in strategic initiatives. Gogan graduated from Rowan University in 1976 with a BFA in Art. As a practicing artist, Gogan exhibited her work in numerous exhibits, and received two Individual Artist Fellowships from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Gogan currently serves as an officer on the boards of the ArtsPride NJ and the South Jersey Cultural Alliance.

Brian Bovasso serves as the President of the Ocean County Historical Society (OCHS). He is a researcher and published author of two local history books. He has a BS in Economics and Urban Studies as well as a college certification in Total Quality Management. A 33-year businessman, Bovasso ran record-breaking United Way campaigns and, managed the Community Investment foundation. He belonged to two local United Way campaign boards, and was a board member of the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, HomeFront, and a DYFS Child Violence Prevention Committee. Taking office in 2017, Bovasso has implemented many new outreach initiatives including a Development Committee, membership in the Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce, and the Central Ocean Business Association. He and his wife Carmie, a registered nurse and acupuncturist, are the parents of four daughters, and live in the Jersey Shore community of Lavallette.

Patricia C. Pongracz has served as the Executive Director of Macculloch Hall Historical Museum (MHHM) since 2015. Prior to arriving at MHHM, she was the Andrew W. Mellon Fellow where she researched Tiffany Studios' interiors. Her research on a selection of Tiffany Studios interiors for synagogues was published in *The Metropolitan Museum Journal* (volume 51, 2017). Previously, Pongracz served as the Acting Director and Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Museum of Biblical Art (MOBIA) in New York City. She co-curated a number of exhibitions at MOBIA and co-authored and co-edited numerous publications, including: *Louis C. Tiffany and the Art of Devotion* and *Perspectives on Medieval Art: Learning through Looking, and Biblical Art and the Asian Imagination*. Pongracz received her MA and PhD in the History of Art and Architecture from Brown University, Providence, RI. She completed the Getty Leadership Institute training program for museum professionals in 2019. Pongracz is a recipient of multiple grants and awards, including those from the Corning Museum of Glass and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.