


MATT TUERK
MAYOR

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TO: Michael Hanlon
City Clerk

FROM: Matt Tuerk 
Mayor

DATE: October 10, 2023

SUBJECT: Authorities, Boards, Commissions Appointments

Mayor Tuerk has approved the following appointments for City Council's consideration.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Authority/Board/Commission</u>	<u>Term to Expire</u>
Jessica Ambler	Arts Commission	1/3/2026
Victoria Beck	Arts Commission	1/2/2027
Daniel Djuro-Goiricelaya	Arts Commission	1/2/2027
Kyle Edwards	Arts Commission	1/3/2026
Abigail Simmons	Arts Commission	1/3/2026

Jessica Ambler, Victoria Beck, Daniel Djuro-Goiricelava, and Kyle Edwards will replace four vacant seats on the Arts Commission as artistic professionals living and/or working in the City of Allentown. Abigail Simmons will replace Max Weintraub on the Commission as representation for the Allentown Art Museum.



ABIGAIL SIMMONS

Allentown, PA



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<https://goo.gl/JZVvDu>



EDUCATION

Georgetown University
Masters of Arts
Art and Museum Studies
2016 - 2017

Sotheby's Institute of Art
Certificate, Art and Business
Concentration in Modern and
Contemporary Art
2017

Kennesaw State University
Bachelors of Arts
Art History, Minor in French
2010 - 2015

AWARDS

Outstanding Internship
Mentor, 2019
Kutztown University

EXPERIENCE

Allentown Art Museum

Allentown, PA

Director of Education and Public Engagement

August 2017 – Present

- ▷ Spearheading the strategic vision and execution for all educational and public engagement initiatives, ensuring alignment with organizational objectives
- ▷ Overseeing a multidisciplinary team responsible for adult, college, and youth programs, as well as community outreach efforts
- ▷ Nurturing and expanding high-impact partnerships with educational institutions, arts organizations, and public service entities for mutual benefit and community enrichment
- ▷ Leading the development, refinement, and scaling of Internship and Arts Therapy Programs to foster real-world experiences and advanced career opportunities for students and graduates.
- ▷ Implementing evidence-based training methodologies for staff and docents, enhancing their proficiency in inclusive, inquiry-based education and special-needs accommodations
- ▷ Formulating and managing budgets across multiple programmatic areas, optimizing resource allocation to drive high-quality educational and engagement outcomes
- ▷ Directing program evaluation and data analysis to assess efficacy, drive improvements, and demonstrate impact to stakeholders and funding bodies

Arlington Arts Center

Arlington, VA

Exhibitions and Curatorial Intern

May 2017 – August 2017

- ▷ Wrote interpretive labels and catalog introduction for *Fall SOLOs 2017*, to promote visitor understanding of and engagement with contemporary art
- ▷ Planned exhibition layout and assisted with installation for *Fall SOLOs 2017* which included an outdoor public art installation
- ▷ Researched contemporary mid-career artists for exhibition, *You, If No One Else* - an exhibition exploring visual arts as a form of socio-political activism
- ▷ Collaborated interdepartmentally to edit catalogs, brochures, and digital media to ensure consistency and accessibility of information
- ▷ Worked with Exhibitions Director to plan public programs including Artist Talks and their annual Dia De Los Muertos Celebration

Smithsonian American Art Museum

Washington DC

Intern to the Chief Curator of Contemporary Interpretation August 2016 – December 2016

- ▷ Researched art and artists for seminar based educational programs on Contemporary African American Art and Abstract Expressionism focusing on the museum's collection
- ▷ Produced lecture notes, outlines, and visual aids for adult educational programs
- ▷ Researched current educational and interpretive theory and practice in collaboration with Chief Curator of Contemporary Interpretation
- ▷ Created, collected, and analyzed public program evaluations to better understand learning outcomes and program effectiveness

