

TCHA Board Candidates- 2025

Del Bartlett

I joined TCHA in 1964 because of my interest in locating the site of Fort Ouiatenon. Back then we had a Fort Ouiatenon Committee of which I was a member and eventually chairman until I left Lafayette in 1968 to serve in the Navy. From 1964 until 1968 I conducted field research and historical research until we located the Site of the fort and eventually worked with The Indiana Historical Society and Dr. Jim Kellar from the IU Glenn Black Laboratory to organize and conduct the first archaeological investigation at the site in the summer of 1968. In 1967 I co-chaired the first public Feast of the Hunters' Moon as a fundraiser for further archaeological investigations at Fort Ouiatenon. Following my time with the Navy and attending law school, I returned to Lafayette in 1978 and have served as a member of the Board of Governors since. In 2016 my son, Colby, and I began a collaboration with The Archaeological Conservancy to seek grants and other funding to create an archaeological and nature preserve around the site of the original Fort Ouiatenon. With the generous help of the Indiana Bi-centennial Nature Trust, The Indiana Heritage Trust, The Archaeological Conservancy and the Roy Whistler Foundation, The Ouiatenon Preserve has now been established as a 200 acre plus buffer around the old fort site. The preserve itself contains over a dozen other archaeological sites associated with Fort Ouiatenon and has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior. I am a past president of TCHA and maintain an active role as a board member and contributing member of the Ouiatenon Preserve Committee of TCHA and other corporate committees. I would like to continue my service as a board member as we continue to expand and develop trails and an interpretive program for the Ouiatenon Preserve.

Monica Casanova

Monica Casanova is the Fairfield Township Trustee. She was elected to the office in 2022. Monica quickly reopened the office and has provided more financial assistance in one year than the previous four years combined. Monica has increased transparency by posting board agendas, minutes, and financial statements on the Township's website. Monica has reestablished trust in the community after a previous tumultuous and fraught administration whose Trustee was convicted of financial malfeasance.

Monica has a Bachelor's in Education with a focus on Social Studies education. Monica also has two Masters degrees in Public History and Library Science. Currently, she is completing a third Master's degree in Social Work. She hopes to graduate in Spring 2026. Currently, she serves on the board for Food Finders, Indiana Township Association, Area IV, and Carey Home.

Monica has a diverse personal and professional background. She was born in Mexico and migrated to Indiana from California in the early 1990s. She was part of the big surge of Latino immigration to Lafayette. She is a first generation high school and college graduate. After graduating with her MLS, she worked as a public librarian for the Monticello Public Library and was promoted to Library Director after four years. After five years as Library Director, she accepted the position of Public Services Manager for the Allen County Public Library. She has also worked for Lafayette Urban Ministry as the Assistant Director to the Immigration Clinic and later as Case Manager for Valley Oaks Health.

By joining the TCHA board, I hope to increase visibility of the Latino immigrant community to Lafayette, increase diversity on the board, and its programming. I want to promote local history and make it accessible to all of Lafayette.

H. Kory Cooper, PhD

I am an Associate Professor who joined the Department of Anthropology at Purdue University in 2008 and also hold a courtesy appointment in the School of Materials Engineering. I joined the TCHA Board of Governors in 2019 and would like to be considered for a third term. One of my main activities since joining the TCHA Board has been to serve as the Chair of the Ouiatenon Preserve Committee. My goal has been to facilitate communication and transparency between the TCHA and Ouiatenon Preserve, Inc., and with the rest of the OP Committee, assist OPI in fulfilling its mandate as a local non-profit dedicated to the preservation of local history and natural landscapes.

For the past several years I have collaborated with TCHA staff and members on community outreach events during Archaeology Month. My TCHA and OP Committee responsibilities do overlap to some extent with my professional activities as a Purdue Archaeologist where I am actively engaged in supervising student research related to Fort Ouiatenon. I have witnessed many new initiatives at TCHA in the decade that I have been a resident of Tippecanoe County and am excited about the association's future. I have no specific goal concerning continuing to serve on the TCHA Board of Governors other than to work with other board and association members on issues where I can draw on my expertise in archaeology and cultural heritage issues to help TCHA carry out its mission.

Ashima Krishna

Ashima Krishna is Clinical Associate Professor in the John Martinson Honors College. Prior to joining the Honors College, she was Associate Director of the Purdue Policy Research Institute and Assistant Professor of Practice in the Global Studies Program in Purdue's College of Liberal Arts. She is an architect and historic preservation planner whose research spans the management of historic urban landscapes and adaptive reuse of religious historic structures and landscapes, with a particular focus on intersection with community development and equity issues and their resulting policy challenges. Dr. Krishna has examined issues related to historic preservation planning and urban conservation in United States and India and continues to highlight the ways in which the historic built environment can be preserved, managed, and planned for. Her published work has been featured in *Journal of Urbanism*, *Preservation Education and Research*, *Change Over Time*, and *Journal of American Planning Association* among others. Her co-edited book *Heritage Conservation in Postcolonial India: Approaches and Challenges* was published by Routledge in 2020. Her current book project is an interdisciplinary examination of Asian American places of heritage in collaboration with Dr. Nathan Swanson.

I am an architect, historic preservation planner, and urban planner by training, with nearly twenty years of experience in this field in both professional and academic settings. I am a TCHA member and patron, and in the last four years of living in this community, have made extensive use of the incredible resources at TCHA, and introduced my students to them as well. I am a firm believer in the power of public history and local history, and how it shapes our communities. TCHA, as an important non-profit history and preservation advocacy group, plays a vital role in preserving both

tangible and intangible aspects of our community, and I am looking forward to playing a bigger role in shaping the present and future of the organization. In addition to my professional perspectives as evinced in my CV, I will bring to the TCHA Governing Board: collegiality, an open mind, and a willingness to listen to different points of view, while engaging in respectful dialogue and discussion to ensure that the organization realizes its fullest potential in the years to come.

Quentin Robinson

I have been a student of history most of my life, and a resident of Tippecanoe County since 1975. I value TCHA for what it brings to our citizens now and want to help guide us into the future. I have a degree from Purdue with a major in history, I have taught HS history. Prior to becoming a board member, I was a volunteer for the TCHA library/archives.

I am completing my tenth year as a member of the board, and I have served on various committees over that time. One of my most rewarding committee experiences was serving this year on the Bicentennial Book Committee which included brainstorming with others and composing several stories that will appear in that book.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nick Schenkel

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Board of The Tippecanoe County Historical Association for the past three years. For much of my term I have served as the Secretary of TCHA's Board of Governors. I am proud of the service I have provided.

My four decades of experience as a local public library director, built upon my master's degrees in history and library science, encourage me to continue my service to our community, serving on the TCHA Board.

I am actively involved with Tippecanoe County Historical Association's governance. And I am gladly learning and sharing as a member of the Collections Committee as well as supporting the Annual Feast of Hunter's Moon and other public programs offered by TCHA as we celebrate two hundred years of Lafayette and Tippecanoe County History.

I am a lifelong learner and am encouraged to see the programs and activities I support with TCHA spur others in our community to continue learning too.

I look forward to working with Director Claire Eagle and the Board as we guide and implement TCHA's goals for this and the coming years.

I respectfully ask for your vote.

Jeff Schwab

As a board member whose current term is expiring, I am asking for your support in serving another term on the TCHA board. I am a retired IT professional who worked at Purdue University for over 40 years. I have used my technical skills in support of TCHA, helping build, maintain, and operate

various systems. In addition, I have served as the Volunteer Chair for the Feast of the Hunters' Moon for the past 26 years and working with the staff and volunteers I have helped the event prosper over the last quarter century.

I have been honored to serve as the president of the TCHA board for the last four years. I have also served on numerous committees and have helped with various facilities and maintenance projects in Association buildings. I look forward to continuing my board service for another term and look forward to helping keep our association moving forward.

Jillian White

I'm Jillian White, I have a degree in history with a focus in colonial American studies, and I am passionate about preserving history for future generations. I graduated from Valparaiso University and hail from Porter, Indiana. My love for history began at a very young age, about 7 years old, when I saw the movie National Treasure, which had me begging my parents to take me to Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. to experience the sights from the movie first-hand. From there almost every family vacation revolved around visiting museums and national parks across the Midwest and east coast such as Colonial Williamsburg (where I got engaged), Boston, Salem, and Gettysburg. During my time at Valparaiso University I served as an intern collections curator, which gave me great experience in curating displays, handling artifacts, and cataloguing data. I loved this experience because it took my passion for history beyond text and into in-depth study.

I want to join the Board to continue to support historical preservation in the community I live in. I believe that I can bring my enthusiasm and my experience of board membership to this opportunity. I was previously a diversity, equity, and inclusion advisor for the Kappa Delta chapter at Valparaiso University for 3 years and fully understand the importance of being an active and understanding board member. While I will not be living here long term, I'd like to do my part to share, research, and explore historical preservation in Tippecanoe County.

Todd White

My time at TCHA has been a rewarding experience these past nine years. During my time serving on the Board of Governors, I have served on the Finance Committee as well as the Employee Benefit Committee. While on those committees, I have used my experience in the banking industry to assist the committee with making key decisions.

Continuing my time with the Board of Governors I would hope to continue to assist the strengthening of financial health of TCHA and continued growth going forward into the future. I also look forward to being even more involved in TCHA in the future as I have recently become an empty nester which should allow me more time to devote to TCHA.