



KEY CONTRIBUTORS

EMILY LARSEN, MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Emily Larsen is a Utah based curator, museum professional, researcher, and collage artist. She is the Director of the Springville Museum of Art, where she's worked in a variety of positions since 2014. Emily graduated with a Bachelors of Arts from Brigham Young University and a Master of Arts in History from the University of Utah. In addition to her work at the SMA, Larsen has contributed to the local art community as an Independent Scholar — researching, writing and publishing as well as presenting on the topic of Utah art and history throughout the State.

DR. VERN G. SWANSON

Vern Served as the Director of the Springville Museum of Art for 32 years before retiring in 2012. During his tenure he helped to articulate its mission/vision, supporting objectives and standards, quadrupled the size of the permanent art collection (mostly of Utah and Soviet art), doubled the size of the facilities with a new wing and sculpture garden, and increased the staff size and over all professionalism. He is a respected expert and scholar on a variety of topics and the author of countless books on the topics of both art and religion.

DR. RITA R. WRIGHT

Dr. Rita Wright served as the Director of the Springville Museum of Art from 2012 to 2023. She worked at the LDS Church History Museum in Salt Lake City, where she was the Curator of Art and Artifacts. Rita served as the Academic Programs Coordinator for Museum Education at the Brigham Young University Museum of Art (MOA) where she worked for 8 years. She also taught courses at BYU and Utah Valley University. She has an undergraduate degree in Theatre and Film, a Masters degree in Humanities from Brigham Young University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Utah in European History with Ancient and Art History minors.

DR. MICAH CHRISTENSEN

Micah is a scholar of European, Asian, and American fine art, porcelain, and decorative objects. He is a partner at Anthony's Fine Art & Antiques (Salt Lake City) and a Board Member of the Springville Museum of Art. He regularly continues to lecture, write, and consult with public institutions and private collectors. He is a co-author of the Dictionary of Utah Fine Artists. Micah currently sits on the Advisory Board of PleinAir Magazine.

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THE PLAINS

The Plains is a documentary production company run by Jared Jakins, Hunter Phillips, and Kelyn Ikegami. Their films have been featured by national platforms like Independent Lens on PBS and The Atlantic. They have received accolades including an Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary Short Subject.

The Plains' versatile experience spans B2B services, consumer-facing ad campaigns, nonprofit projects, and more. The team has delivered outstanding work for local businesses, national companies, and global brands.

Hunter Phillips and Jared Jakins are directing the documentary film about the history of the Spring Salon.

DOCUMENTARY INTERVIEW SUBJECTS

Hildy Mangum, Current SHS Student

Magdalena Marquez, Current SHS Student

Lt. Governor Deidre Henderson, Utah Lieutenant Governor Emily Larsen, Current Director Rita R. Wright, Director Emeritus Vern G. Swanson, Director Emeritus Micah Christensen, Art Historian and SMAA Board Member Lee Udall Bennion, Utah Artist Esther Hi'ilani Candari, Utah Artist and Curator Anne Gregerson, Utah Artist Brian Kershisnik, Utah Artist Ron Richmond, Utah Artist Jorge Rojas, Utah Artist and Curator Dianne Clyde Carr, SHS Alumni Richard Child, SHS Alumni and Former Springville Mayor Clark King, SHS Alumni Santiago Michalek, SHS Alumni and Utah Artist Carol Neil, SHS Alumni and Former Art Queen Peggy Singelton Roundy, SHS Alumni and Former Art Queen Lee Taylor, SHS Alumni and Springville Historical Society Nichole Gonzalez, Current SHS Student and Art Club President Presley Johnson, Current SHS Student and Art Royalty

