

Board Member Profile: Deborah Bozarth

Deborah Bozarth was first appointed to the New Jersey Cultural Trust Board of Trustees in 2000, and she served as a member of the Board's first Executive Committee. In this Q&A, she shares her love for New Jersey and its cultural community in recognition of the Trust's 25th anniversary.



Tell us a bit about yourself.

I have lived most of my life in Burlington County, New Jersey!

I have always had a passion for the importance of music education. After earning a B.A. and M.Ed. from the College of New Jersey, I started my professional work life teaching instrumental music in South Jersey public schools. During that time, I was honored to have been the first woman selected to conduct the All South Jersey Regional Junior High School Band. It was a joyous time in my life. Additionally, I served as a member of the board of ArtPride New Jersey for ten years, where I worked to support the entire New

Jersey arts community.

I have also always had a passion for history and politics. I have worked in both the Legislative and Executive branches of state government. For more than 30 years, I have been the top lobbyist in Trenton for the New Jersey Association for Justice.

When and how did you come to serve on the Cultural Trust Board?

In 2000, I expressed interest in the progress of a bill moving through the Legislature that proposed a new agency to support New Jersey's cultural nonprofits. I was impressed with the concept developed in the bill and happy to see something that supported the arts, history, and humanities communities in a new and innovative way. After the Cultural Trust Act was signed into law in July 2000, the Assembly Speaker appointed me to the Cultural Trust's Board of Trustees. I am very proud to be the only original Board member to have served for 25 continuous years. I was a member of the first Executive Committee and served in that role for many years.

What excites or inspires you about the mission and work of the Cultural Trust Board?

The Cultural Trust plays a critical role in filling some of the gaps that previously existed in State support for the cultural communities in New Jersey. It also brings the arts, history, and humanities communities together by allowing them all to be recognized and supported by the State.

It is inspiring to work with my fellow board members to cheer on the amazing work of the many organizations that add so much to the richness of the culture of our state. The Cultural Trust is an important part of what makes New Jersey a special place to live and work. It has been an honor to serve as a Board member of the New Jersey Cultural Trust.