Meet the 2020 Judges

Lauren Buches, Latrobe Art Center, Executive Director

Lauren Buches has been working to strengthen the important work of educational, historical, and artistic non-profits for the past decade. She started her career as museum facilitator at Bushy Run Battlefield. Since then, she has honed her marketing, community development, and collaborative skills at several non-profits, including the Red Panda Network, Carnegie Museums of Art & Natural History, and Westmoreland Heritage. At Carnegie Museum of Natural History, she revolutionized the museum’s social media accounts, creating the @Dippy_the_Dino Facebook, and Twitter accounts, and serving as the museum’s first social media and marketing coordinator. Since 2018, she has served as the Executive Director of Latrobe Art Center, a community art center in the heart of downtown Latrobe, PA, that provides a welcoming atmosphere for adults and children of all skill levels to grow their artistic talents and interests. She obtained degrees in journalism and history from the University of Pittsburgh.

Jessica Kadie-Barclay, West Overton Village & Museums, Chief Executive Officer

Jessica Kadie-Barclay is the CEO of West Overton Village and Museums as well as West Overton Distilling. She creates and oversees the operational strategy for this 30-acre historic village in southwestern Pennsylvania and loves doing it. In addition to running West Overton, she earned her Masters of Public Management from the Heinz School at Carnegie Mellon. However, her first love is the fine arts, having graduated with a B.F.A in visual arts from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her passion is for interpretations of the natural world in whatever style that takes. She is partial to physical qualities emphasizing the handmade nature of the object, such as the lush impasto of an oil painting or a thumbprint on a ceramic vase. While not currently making art, she is an avid art collector. Besides art, she cares for an astounding number of houseplants and more pets than any sane person would own.

Stephen Schrum, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Associate Professor of Theatre Arts

Stephen Schrum, PhD, is Associate Professor of Theatre Arts for the visual and performing arts major at Pitt-Greensburg. With a PhD in dramatic art from the University of California, Berkeley, he is also interested in playwrighting, podcasting, and digital filmmaking. Along with having two monologues from original plays published in anthologies, he performed his full-length monologue, Immaculate Misconceptions: Tales from Catholic School, and directed the world premiere of his musical Dog Assassin. You can also listen to his podcast, Audio Chimera, on iTunes, Spotify, iHeartRadio, and GooglePlay. Some of his written work including his novel, Watchers of the Dawn — A Steampunk Adventure can be found on smashwords.com. He is also coordinator for the Arts Entrepreneurship Certificate program at Pitt-Greensburg, and is an associate member of the professional union Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. Visit his website MUSOFYR (“muse of fire”) for more information.