University of Houston System-wide Art Acquisition Committee (SWAAC)

2012 Appointment Recommendations

University of Houston System Board of Regents Appointment (Two representatives)

Nandita Berry, Regent, UHS Board of Regents (two-year term)

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell, LLP

Nandita Venkateswaran Berry was appointed to the University of Houston System Board of Regents in 2009 by Governor Rick Perry and will serve through August 31, 2015. This would be Regent Berry’s second appointment to SWAAC.

She is Senior Counsel with Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP, a full-service, national law firm with a vast geographic scope, and a national reputation in complex litigation, regulatory and transactional matters. She has practiced corporate and securities law as in-house counsel for El Paso Corporation, which owns North America's largest interstate natural gas pipeline system, and is one of North America's largest independent natural gas producers.

Born in Hyderabad, India, Nandita has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mt. Carmel College, Bangalore, India. She graduated from the University of Houston with a B.A. in 1991 and from the University of Houston Law Center with a Juris Doctorate in 1995.

Welcome Wilson Jr., Regent, UHS Board of Regents (two-year term)

President and CEO, GSL Welcome Group

Welcome W. Wilson, Jr., was appointed to the University of Houston System Board of Regents by Governor Rick Perry in 2011 and will serve through August 31, 2017. For fiscal year 2011-2012, Regent Wilson will serve as vice chair of the Facilities, Construction and Master Planning Committee and as a member of the Finance and Administration Committee.

He is president and chief executive officer of GSL Welcome Group, a real estate development firm specializing in single-tenant office buildings and industrial properties with warehouse and manufacturing facilities. He has extensive experience in industrial development, residential subdividing, office buildings, and retail centers. He also serves as developer with Kingham · Dalton · Wilson Ltd., a Design/Build construction affiliate of GSL and director of River Oaks Financial Group, Inc.

Wilson is the chairman of the board of the Southwest Houston Redevelopment Authority and Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number 20. He also serves on the board of the Greater Sharpstown Management District, the Texas Business Hall of Fame and the Houston Real Estate Business Coalition. He serves on both the Greater Houston Partnership’s Common Grounds Initiative Committee and Energy Collaborative Cluster Council Leadership Committee.

Wilson’s philanthropic endeavors include serving on the board of the Houston Food Bank, where he previously served as vice chairman, and the American Lung Association Advisory Board. Previously he served as director of the Houstonian Club Advisory Board and president of the Kinkaid Alumni Association. Preceding his appointment to the UH System Board of Regents, he served on the Board of the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation.

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Wilson is a native Houstonian and attended the University of Denver.

**University of Houston Representative Appointment (One representative for a three-year term)**

**Jenni Sorkin, Assistant Professor, UH School of Art, Contemporary Art and Critical Studies**

Dr. Sorkin's received her BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, MA from The Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College and MA and PhD from Yale University. Her work examines the confluence of gender and material culture within modern and contemporary art history, theory and criticism. She is currently completing a book manuscript, titled Live Form: Craft as Participation, which examines the legacy of Black Mountain College, craft pedagogy, and the history of ceramics from 1952 to 1975. Her writing has appeared in the *New Art Examiner, Art Journal, Art Monthly, NU: The Nordic Art Review, Frieze, The Journal of Modern Craft, Modern Painters, and Third Text*. She has written numerous in-depth catalog essays on feminist art and material culture topics. She has been an invited lecturer at Cal Arts, Cornell University, Dia Beacon, Ohio University, the School of Visual Arts, the Santa Monica Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami, the Textile Museum of Canada, and the Southern Alberta Art Gallery. In 2010, she co-organized "Blind Spots/Puntos Ciegos: Feminisms, Cinema, and Performance," for the eight edition of STJAC, the International Symposium of Contemporary Art Theory, held in Mexico City. She has been awarded fellowships from the ACLS/Luce Foundation and the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. She is the recipient of the 2004 Art Journal Award, given by the College Art Association.

**University of Houston - Victoria Representative Appointment (One representative for a three-year term)**

**Uppinder Mehan, UHV Associate Provost**

Mehan is an assistant professor of humanities and the interim chair of the Humanities Division at the University of Houston-Victoria School of Arts & Sciences. He has taught at the University of Houston-Victoria since 2008 and has 15 years of teaching experience. After receiving his doctorate in English from the University of Toronto in 1996, Mehan taught in the Writing, Literature and Publishing Department at Emerson College in Boston. He developed classes in contemporary world literature and took a lead role in establishing Emerson’s post-Colonial studies minor. In 2004, he co-edited a new writing anthology, “So Long Been Dreaming: Post Colonial Visions of the Future,” with Caribbean writer Nalo Hopkinson. Mehan moved to Victoria in 2008. He serves as the associate director for the Society for Critical Exchange, a scholarly society devoted to theory. He also has worked with Jeffrey Di Leo, dean of the School of Arts & Sciences, to host the annual SCE Winter Theory Institute. In addition to teaching and research, Mehan has served on the University of Houston-Victoria Faculty Senate and other committees.

**Museum Appointments (Three representatives for three-year terms each)**

**Michelle White, Curator, The Menil Collection**

White attended the Slade School of Fine Art at University College, London and earned her B.A. from UC San Diego and her M.A. from Tufts University. White was a curatorial assistant at the MFAH and took a position at the Menil in 2006 as assistant curator and recently promoted to Curator at the Menil. She has organized numerous exhibitions at the Menil most recently a survey of drawings by Richard Serra. She has also written numerous articles for *Modern Painters, Art Papers, Spot, Dwell, Glasstire* and *Artlies* where she served as regional editor from 2004-2009.
Valerie Cassel Oliver, Senior Curator, Contemporary Arts Museum

Valerie Cassel Oliver is the 2011 recipient of the David C. Driskell Prize. Named for the renowned African American artist and art scholar, the Driskell Prize is an annual award that recognizes a scholar or artist in the beginning or middle of his or her career whose work makes an original and important contribution to the field of African American art or art history. In her role as senior curator at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH), Cassel Oliver has organized numerous group and solo exhibitions. Prior to her tenure at CAMH, Cassel Oliver was director of the Visiting Artists Program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (1995–2000) and program specialist at the National Endowment for the Arts (1988–1995). In 2000 she was selected as one of a team of curators to organize the Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. Cassel Oliver received her certificate of executive management from Columbia University in 2009. She also holds a master’s degree in art history from Howard University and a bachelor’s degree in communications from The University of Texas at Austin.

Alison de Lima Greene, Curator Contemporary Art & Special Projects, Museum of Fine Arts Houston

Before moving to Texas, Alison worked in the department of European Paintings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and lectured at The Cooper Union. In the spring of 2000, she published the award-winning catalogue Texas: 150 Works from the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Other publications include a collection catalogue profiling the museum’s Lillie and Hugh Roy Cullen Sculpture Garden and a survey of the MFAH’s 25-year Core Program for resident artists and writers. Outside the MFAH, Alison has served as a trustee and Vice President of the Association of Art Museum Curators and is an advisory trustee of Gulf Coast literary magazine.

Community Representative (One representative for a three-year term)

Melissa Edwards – Houston, Texas

Melissa Edwards is a philanthropist and community leader in Houston. She has been involved in many prominent civic and charitable endeavors, but her greatest passion is her charitable work with Alzheimer’s disease. She served on the board of directors for the Alzheimer’s Association Houston and Southeast Chapter, and in 2009 was appointed to a six-year term to the Texas Council on Alzheimer’s disease and Related Disorders by Texas Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst. She was named one of ABC13’s Women of Distinction in 2010 and as one of the five outstanding young Houstonians by the Houston and Texas Jaycees. She is the recipient of the “Excellence in Bloom” Award, Huffington Center on Aging at Baylor College of Medicine in 2011. She has served on the boards of the Alzheimer’s Association, both Houston and Southwest Chapters, the Boys and Girls Harbor, the American Diabetes Association, Neighborhood Centers, SEARCH Homeless Services and Theatre Under The Stars. She has co-chaired events for Galveston Bay Foundation, Culinary Institute of Houston, Ensemble Theatre, Weather Museum, H.E.A.R.T. Program, Fire Fighters Foundation, El Centro de Corazon and the Baylor Teen Health Clinic. A graduate of the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Arts in art history, she was a 2009 chair of Table Talk, a signature program for the Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, and a member of College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Dean’s Advisory Council.
# System Wide Art Acquisition Committee Roster

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Emily Messa</td>
<td>Chair SWAAC</td>
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<td>Elaine Jefferson</td>
<td>Comm. Representative</td>
<td>09/01/2013</td>
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<td>Galveston Arts Center</td>
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Vacant

UH Clear Lake
09/01/2013

UH Public Art Curator
Indefinite

Dir., UH Center for the Arts

UH – ad hoc member
Indefinite

Museum Rep