



THE  
**SHELDON**  
Arts Without Borders

Chris Peimann  
The Sheldon  
Director of Marketing & Publicity  
[cpeimann@TheSheldon.org](mailto:cpeimann@TheSheldon.org)  
314.533.9900 ext. 19

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## **JIM WATSON NAMED SHELDON ARTS FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR**

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon Arts Foundation is pleased to announce the election of Jim Watson as the new chair of its board of directors, effective July 1, 2020. Watson succeeds Anne Bannister, who has served as the Sheldon Arts Foundation’s board chair since 2015.



"I am honored to be named chair of the Sheldon Arts Foundation's board of directors," said Watson. "As an avid supporter of the arts in our community, I look forward to helping The Sheldon continue its efforts to make arts accessible to everyone, through the presentation of thoughtful, world-class programming that welcomes the entire St. Louis community and beyond. The unique challenges presented by the coronavirus will allow us to accelerate The Sheldon’s mission of delivering ‘Arts Without Borders.’"

Sheldon Executive Director Peter Palermo says, "We sincerely thank Anne Bannister for her expert, forward-thinking leadership as board chair over the past four years. Anne extended her tenure in order to help guide The Sheldon through the construction of Steward Family Plaza, and the executive director search and transition last year, and leaves The Sheldon on a solid foundation for growth and innovation as Jim leads us into our next chapter."

Watson recently retired from a 43-year career in banking in St. Louis. The majority of his time was spent serving the needs of local, privately-held businesses and not-for-profit organizations for Mark Twain Bank and Midwest BankCentre, most recently as its chairman and CEO. Watson has supported the needs of many community organizations by serving on the boards of The Caring Program for Children, American Red Cross, The St. Louis Chamber Chorus, Circus Flora, United Way, Chesterfield Arts, Beyond Housing and the Sheldon Arts Foundation, among others.

The Sheldon hosts over 350 events each year, including jazz, folk, classical, bluegrass, world music concerts and more in the Sheldon Concert Hall; a diverse range of educational programs serving over 30,000 students each year; and world-class exhibitions in the Sheldon Art Galleries, in spaces dedicated to photography, architecture, St. Louis artists and collections, music, children’s art and emerging artists. The Sheldon also collaborates with many community organizations, and hosts events and fundraisers for non-profit organizations throughout the St. Louis region.

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Hi-Res photos available upon request.

Photo caption: Jim Watson, left, with Peter Palermo. Credit: Dilip Vishwanat