

BARBARA R. NICHOLSON, PH.D.

Barbara R. Nicholson serves as the Executive Director of The Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing and Cultural Arts Complex in Columbus, Ohio. She is currently a member of the board of the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority. Past service includes: She presided as President of the Urbancrest Community Investment Corporation; served as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen & Eddie Rickenbacker Foundation board, the First Circle Advisory Board of the National Association of American Cultures, of which she was a chief architect of the establishment of the organization. Barbara is a 2003 YWCA Woman of Achievement honoree, received the 2005 Community Service Award from Kappa Alpha Psi; a 2005 recipient of the Governor's Award for Arts Administration in Ohio; the United Way of Central Ohio's 2006 Community Leadership Award; and, was the recipient of the 2007 Visionary Leadership Award for the Greater Columbus Community Helping Hands, Inc.

Her professional background includes a variety of arts management positions. Before moving to Columbus, as a cabinet member in the District of Columbia, she served as Executive Director of the District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and as the Mayor's Advisor on Cultural Affairs. She formerly taught at the middle school level, the University of South Carolina at Columbia and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

She formerly served on the Advanced Placement Panel for the College Board, the Arts Panel of the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, as a keynote speaker for the Commission on Presidential Scholars and as a site evaluator for both the Lily Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Barbara has served as an advisor to numerous local arts organizations and artists.

Barbara is proudest of her consistent and aggressive commitment to human rights, social justice and cultural democracy. Barbara is personally and professionally committed to giving to others since she believes "that to whom much is given, much is required." She mentors numerous young women and men, and youth with advice, personal experiences and maintains an "open door" policy and attitude.

Dr. Nicholson earned a B.F.A. degree at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, a Master of Arts degree at Columbia Teachers' College in New York City and a Doctor of Philosophy degree at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Barbara has continued to work as a practicing artist throughout her career.