

Karla Rothan, Executive Director of Stonewall Columbus

Ms Rothan is a native of Cincinnati and moved to Columbus in 1982 to attend The Ohio State University. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in theatre in 1986. She toured as an actor doing shows in children's theatre for ten years before starting her own non profit theatre company, New Venture Theatre in Columbus in 1992. Her career expanded in the non profit arts arena when she landed a position at the prestigious Wexner Center for the Arts in 1995. She then became the public relations and marketing director for the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging from 1998 – 2005. Throughout her career Karla maintained a serious commitment to Stonewall Columbus. She was the chair of the annual Pride Holiday for three years increasing the revenue for that fundraiser 200%. Rothan has been a leader and activist in Columbus for over twenty years working with other organizations as well including the Human Rights Campaign, the Hudson for Council campaign and most recently Mayor Coleman's 2012 commission. Mayor Coleman recently appointed Ms Rothan to the Recreation and Parks Commission in April 2008. Karla began her leadership of Stonewall Columbus in July of 2006 as an interim director and accepted the position of Executive Director on March 19, 2007. "It is my goal to use all of the skills and experience that I have acquired working in the non profit sector to build on the twenty seven year foundation that Stonewall Columbus has created. As I enter the next phase in the organization's development I believe that I am in exactly the right place at the right time and I look forward to helping make Stonewall's dreams a reality."