

2026 SCREENING COMMITTEE

CHERI L. WILLIAMS, COMMITTEE CHAIR



Cheri L. Williams is a Program Coordinator at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh NC. She holds an MA in Ancient History from North Carolina State University (2009). She was a CAORC Fellow at the American Center of Research in Amman, Jordan (2005). She is a former staff archaeologist with the Roman Aqaba Project in Aqaba, Jordan (1998-2012) specializing in Egyptian Red Slip Pottery.

DR. PHILLIP T. ASHLOCK II



Phillip T. Ashlock II, Ph.D., Archaeologist and Historic Preservation consultant has worked extensively in the Southeastern U.S., Alaska, and the Pacific. His current research is focused on Conflict Archaeology, UAV/UAS and VR/AI/3D technologies, and the impacts to cultural resources from climate change and sea level rise in the Southeast.

MICHAEL AUSBON



Michael A. Ausbon grew up in rural Eastern North Carolina. Eagerly absorbing his father's auctioneering cadences, Michael observed how local historical material culture changed ownership. This childhood education in the power of people, place, and culture led to his degree in Museum Studies and Public History at East Carolina University. Since 1998, Michael has been at North Carolina Museum of History where he manages artifacts, designs exhibitions, lectures, and develops his specialized interests in the stories of Southern material culture and folk life. He is currently Decorative Arts curator at the North Carolina Museum of

History and both the North Carolina's Governor's Mansion and the Western Governor's Residence curator.

DR. CANDACE BRUDER



Dr. Candace Bruder serves as Communication Officer for the Beaufort County School District which has 21,500 students and 3,000 employees. An award-winning screenwriter, Bruder earned a BA in Media Arts from U of SC and a MFA in Screenwriting from Columbia University in NYC. She holds a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Educational Technology from the University of South Carolina.

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2026 **SCREENING COMMITTEE** (CONT'D)

AMY BRUMMER



Amy Brummer served as Operations Manager overseeing the theatrical releases of more than a dozen feature films for an independent production and financing company between 2015-2020. A graduate of Colgate University with a BA in Art and Art History, and a Culinary degree from I.C.E, she has pursued a non-linear career rooted at the intersection of Art, Food, Culture and Nature. Taking on projects rooted in Regionalism, Ecology and History. Her professional career includes work as a Journalist, Independent Curator, Events Coordinator. Her current work in Grief Tending draws on historic, ancestral and indigenous traditions that incorporate ritual, community and somatic practice to metabolize and reframe the experience of loss.

STEPHANIE CARLES



Born in Toronto, Ontario, **Stephanie Carles** studied at Carleton University to get her BA in Interdisciplinary Studies, Archaeology and Culture. She also studied at Algonquin College to get her Diploma in Applied Museum Studies, where she focused on archaeological conservation of pottery, metal and Collections Management. Stephanie has acted as the Director at Large of the Ontario Archaeology Association Ottawa Chapter for 6 years. Since moving to Ottawa, Stephanie has been an active participant and volunteer for the National Capital Commission's Archaeology Excavation and Public Archaeological Program at Lac Leamy Park in Gatineau, Quebec. Her love for archaeology brought her to Aqaba in Jordan, where she worked on the Roman Aqaba Archaeological Project.

DR. JOANNA CASEY



Joanna Casey is a retired Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Carolina. She holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Toronto, and BA and MA degrees in Archaeology from Simon Fraser University in Canada. Dr. Casey has done extensive archaeological fieldwork in Canada, the US and West Africa. For the past 20 years she has been doing Ethnoarchaeology in Northern Ghana and Tigray, Ethiopia.

DR. DAWN CHAPMAN ASHLOCK



Dawn Chapman Ashlock, PhD, Archaeologist and Architectural Historian, has worked in prehistoric and historic archaeology in the southeastern United States since 2007. Her research focuses on buildings archaeology, historic construction materials and methods, the use of mortar analysis to identify material sources and date architectural features, remote sensing, and GIS mapping and analysis.

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2026 **SCREENING COMMITTEE** (CONT'D)

DR. AUDREY DAWSON



Audrey R. Dawson, Ph.D., is an archaeologist whose research focuses on both historic and prehistoric archaeology of the southeastern United States. After completing her undergraduate degree at West Virginia University, she earned her master's and doctorate degrees in anthropology from the University of South Carolina, Columbia. Her research interests include the Middle Archaic, specifically the use of the Sandhills region during this period, plantation complexes, lithic technology, and public archaeology.

JOE EHMAN



Joe Ehman teaches International Baccalaureate Film and is the IB Diploma Programme Coordinator at the Obama Academy in Pittsburgh PA. He has taught film for the past 9 years, and originally went to college to become "Indiana Jones". The experience with Arkhaios was very enjoyable because it combined his love of film, history, and archaeology. The purpose of the filmmakers who submitted to Arkhaios stood out most to him. It was very interesting to see the passion for teaching and history that was evident in all of the films.

RALPH FONTAINE



Ralph Fontaine is an actor, director, writer, and producer who has worked in front of and behind the camera in Los Angeles, New York, and Seattle. Stories, both fictional and true, about the origins, history, and potential future of humanity have captivated him for as long as he can remember. Characters including D'Artagnan from 'The Three Musketeers' and real-world icon Dr. Jane Goodall have inspired him to continue learning about and chronicling the strange experience that is being a human. After acting, directing, and producing for projects ranging from regional theater to reality television, episodic webseries and corporate video, Ralph is currently

working on his first novel. In addition to pursuing this variety of creative muses, Ralph enjoys traveling with his wife Tracy.

NATALIE HARVEY



Natalie Harvey was named the Director of the Office of Cultural Affairs at the Town of Hilton Head Island in 2022. She manages the Town's public art, marketing of arts and cultural organizations, community outreach and the annual "Crescendo" celebration focused on the island's art, culture, and heritage. Natalie's educational background is in Art History and Historic Preservation. She was the editor of the Images of America volume "Hilton Head Island." Her interest in the "pre-bridge" era on Hilton Head Island led to her thesis work in graduate school and many exhibitions at her previous position with the Coastal Discovery Museum.

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2026 **SCREENING COMMITTEE** (CONT'D)

JENNIFER KNUTSON



Jen Knutson is the Assistant Director of the University of South Alabama Archaeology Museum in Mobile, Alabama (B.A., University of North Florida) and president of the Alabama Archaeological Society, Southwest Chapter and the Florida Anthropological Society. Jen is also a Project Archaeology certified Master Teacher and public archaeologist. Originally from north Alabama, she has excavated sites across northern Florida from St. Augustine to Pensacola, including work on her current M.A. thesis research at the University of West Florida on the French Huguenot Colony of Campbelltown in British West Florida.

WYATT KRATER



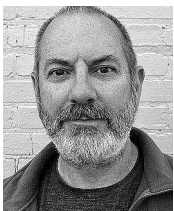
Wyatt Krater is a PhD Candidate with the ERC Synergy Subnordica Project at the University of Bradford. He is studying novel methodologies for mapping and modelling the submerged pre-historic archaeology of landscapes under the North Sea. Through an MA in Maritime Archaeology at the University of Southampton and extensive professional experience in Ireland, England, South Carolina, Bermuda, and Egypt, Wyatt has realized his passion for underwater archaeology both on the water and behind the computer. Special interests include 3D modelling and underwater film/photography.

COLLEEN LANE



Colleen Lane is a cultural anthropologist and adjunct professor. Her most recent research and publications include *"The Anthropology of Food"* and the forthcoming manuscript *"The Anthropology of Grief"*. Beyond academia, she actively participates in community outreach, conservation efforts, and cultural heritage projects. Her thesis was on citizen science and indigenous ecological knowledge

LARRY LANE



Larry Lane is an archaeologist and public information coordinator with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Heritage Trust Program. Larry received his MA in Art History from the University of South Carolina (USC) where his research focused on trends that shaped vernacular architectural developments in Columbia, S.C. from 1890 to 1940. He received a BA in Anthropology focused on South Carolina archaeology from USC and a BA in English Literature from Flagler College, St. Augustine, Fla. Larry is a U.S. Army veteran with 23 years of service as a Public Affairs Specialist and Journalist.

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2026 **SCREENING COMMITTEE** *(CONT'D)*

JEFFREY McQUILLEN



Jeffrey McQuillen, M.A., is an instructor at the University of South Carolina-Beaufort, where he teaches Freshman Composition and film studies; and he is the program coordinator for the Film Minor. This is Jeffrey's seventh year adjudicating for Arkhaiois including three as the committee chair.

KURT MEYER



Kurt Meyer is a Chapel Hill-based design and marketing professional and a longtime advocate for independent films and film festivals. He spent 11 years as the Art/Marketing Director for the Nashville Jewish Film Festival, managed a locally owned video shop in Raleigh, NC for three years, and previously served (back in the stone ages) as a Books & Video sales manager for Tower Records. He currently serves on the screening committee for the Levin Jewish Community Center's film festival. Kurt tries to watch films when he's not trying to keep up with his partner, five children, two grandchildren, two cats, and one very bossy dog.

DREW MILLER, REV.



Drew Miller is an Anglican Priest serving in Florence, SC, where he lives with his wife, son, and retriever. Originally from Charleston, SC, Drew grew up gathering fossils and artifacts from dredge mounds and river banks. This sparked a lifelong passion for studying human history, with particular interests in early hominid evolution and in the first peoples of North America. He leads historical tours as a docent with the Florence County Museum, and participates in local digs with the Archaeological Institute of the Pee Dee whenever he can. Drew holds a Bachelors in Sociology (Furman University) and a Masters of Divinity (Trinity, Ambridge).

DR. KILEY MOLINARI



Dr. Kiley Molinari is an Associate Professor of Anthropology, Francis Marion University. Her research focuses on topics such as material culture studies, Indigenous new media, language and cultural revitalization and retention, digital cultural heritage, and collaborative research in Native North America. She has been working on various projects and presentations with the Apsáalooke People (Crow Tribe) since 2010.

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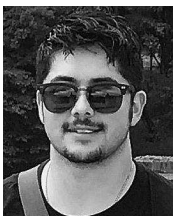
2026 **SCREENING COMMITTEE** (CONT'D)

DR. ERIC POPLIN



Eric Poplin, Archaeologist, is Senior Archaeologist at Brockington and Associates, where he has worked from their Mt. Pleasant office since 1990. Research interests include plantation archaeology, Native American adaptations in coastal SC, the interactions of Native Americans and Europeans during the Contact era, and military sites. Most recently, Eric has been studying Altamaha pottery made by the Yamasee Indians during their 40-year residence in South Carolina.

IAN N. ROA



Ian Roa is a Ph.D. archaeology candidate at University of Pittsburgh. His dissertation is focused on Maya-animal relationships in ritual ceremonies from the Preclassic to the Terminal Classic (300 BC - AD 1000). He is interested in learning about the life histories of ritually important animals through stable isotope analysis, including documenting their geographic origin and diet. His research is based across four ancient Maya sites in western Belize, seeking to understand if the ceremonial use of specific species correlates with ecological changes and social pressures over time.

JIM SIDLETSKY



Jim Sidletsky teaches Media Arts at the University of South Carolina Beaufort. His own work specializes in the creation of 3D Modeling and Texturing hard surface objects, characters and environments. Most recently, Jim worked on an NFT collection and subsequent trailer for the ResQ Project of sheltered companion animals. Jim also wrote and directed the short animated film "**The Ghostly Lovers of Fripp Island**", the first in a series of ghost stories based on Low Country tales and lore. Jim contributed 3D modeling and visual effects work to the television series "**Dead by Midnight**", by You42 productions.

STACEY A. SMITH



Stacey A. Smith serves as the Adult Education Programs Coordinator at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh, NC. In this role, she develops and leads dynamic educational initiatives that engage diverse adult audiences and deepen public understanding of history and cultural heritage. She holds a MA in Museum Studies.

A passionate advocate for lifelong learning, Smith combines her love of film and history with a deep curiosity about global cultures. She is especially drawn to exploring the stories, traditions, and lived experiences that bring people, places, and customs vividly to life.

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2026 **SCREENING COMMITTEE** *(CONT'D)*

JAN LEE SWEATT



Jan Lee Sweatt is an independent artist of photography and paint, graduating Summa Cum Laude from Queens University, Charlotte, NC with a BA in Art History and Museum Studies. Jan served as the Secretary of the Artifact Acquisition Committee at North Carolina Museum of History. In this capacity Jan developed, with curators, a refinement in the museum's process for acquiring artifacts: confirming authenticity, relevance and prospect of exhibit. In addition to her study of US Southern history, she is persistent in the exploration of film, photography, and ancient worlds.

MARIA TRUITT



Maria Truitt is a Senior Video Producer/Editor at Discovery Education in Washington D.C. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Virginia, and an M.A. in Visual Anthropology, Ethnographic Documentary from the University of Manchester. In her current role, Maria oversees the production of videos covering a wide range of national and international subjects. She is excited to return as a member of the 2026 screening committee.

