

## **Melissa McDonald Bio**

Thank you very much for considering me for appointment to this committee. As you know, I hold a deep appreciation for the importance of both public service and public art in our community. As a resident of Milwaukee for the last 5 years I have enjoyed the benefits of public and private art appreciation and awareness programs. In addition, my degree in International Business has given me the opportunity to travel, study, work and live in several places in the U.S. and abroad. While attending college at La Fundación José Ortega Y Gasset, I studied at the Prado Museum of Fine Arts in Madrid, Spain, where I learned that art plays a vital role in defining a society. Through my experiences, I have seen that different cultures may have different languages, customs or religions, but art is so universal, it allows people to see how we are the same and appreciate why we are different. I have witnessed first-hand, how art is tightly integrated into the history and present-day life of people all over the world. I was not blessed with artistic talent, yet that has not stopped me from being able to appreciate and enjoy the talent of others. And although I will never be able to create great artwork, I hope that my experience and my love of art can be used to educate and encourage others like me to participate in the arts.

Thanks again, and please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Melissa McDonald

