



World  
Choir  
Games

2012  
cincinnati usa



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[www.2012worldchoirgames.com](http://www.2012worldchoirgames.com)

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## 2012 World Choir Games Announces Community Engagement Volunteer Team *Will help connect multi-cultural event to Cincinnati USA*

**CINCINNATI (OH)** – The Cincinnati Organizing Committee for the 7th World Choir Games announced today the volunteer leadership for its Community Engagement Team.

The Community Engagement Team will help build awareness and support of the Games throughout the community, increase global cultural awareness by engaging diverse civic, ethnic and cultural groups and help generate volunteers. The seventh World Choir Games will take place in Cincinnati USA from July 4-14, 2012. It is the first time the World Choir Games, produced by Germany-based INTERKULTUR, have been to North America. Procter & Gamble is the first Presenting Sponsor of the 2012 Games.

The team was assembled by Global Co-Chairs Werner and Sabine Geissler and U.S. Co-Chairs Lee and Shannon Carter and Lillian and Judge Nathaniel Jones. Other members may be added later.

Sabine Geissler is serving as team leader.

“It’s hard to ask for a better collection of outstanding and passionate individuals to help connect the 2012 World Choir Games with the Cincinnati USA community,” Sabine Geissler said. “I am very excited to work with such a decorated group of people volunteering their time on behalf of this extraordinary multi-cultural event.”

The Vice Chairs:

- **Shakila Ahmad** – Director of Business Management, Allergy & Asthma Specialty Center. Board chair, BRIDGES for a Just Community. Executive committee, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Board member, YWCA, Ohio Humanities Council. Trustee, Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati. Founder, Muslim Mothers Against Violence initiative.
- **Tom & Mary Ellen Cody** – Tom is retired vice chairman, Macy’s Inc. and board chair, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. Mary Ellen is a longtime community volunteer. They have volunteered for Visions Community Services, Every Child Succeeds, Dress for Success, Xavier University and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.
- **Alfonso Cornejo** – President, AC & Consulting Associates. President, Cincinnati USA Hispanic Chamber. Founder, *Hispanics Avanzando Hispanics*, a non-profit entity that organizes the Cincy-Cinco Latino festival. Board member, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, United Way, ArtsWave, Workforce Investment, Northern Kentucky International Trade Association.

- **Erika Dockery** – Executive director of the Greater Cincinnati World Affairs Council, which works with companies, governments, cultural and educational institutions to build global understanding and promote international awareness.
- **Jason Dunn** – Director of Multicultural Affairs and Community Development for the Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- **Bill and Sue Friedlander** – Bill is Chairman Emeritus, Bartlett & Co. and was chairman from 1967-1989. Board member, Mercantile Library, Center Bank of Mason, Ohio. Former board member, Wyoming Schools, Jewish Hospital Board, Greater Cincinnati Fund. Sue serves on board, Planned Parenthood Foundation. Former board member, Planned Parenthood of Southwest Ohio, the Fine Arts Fund, Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and the Cincinnati Parks Foundation.
- **Danya Karram** – Founder and CEO, Monthly Financial Services. Board member, Cincinnati Red Cross, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati, Artistic Expressions of Faith, Dean's Advisory Council, UC's Department of Education.
- **Eric & Jan-Michele Kearney** – Eric is Senator, Ohio's 9th District. Founder, Sesh Communications, which publishes *The Cincinnati Herald*, *The Northern Kentucky Herald*, *The Dayton Defender*, and other publications. Ranking Minority Member, Senate Financial Institutions Committee, Judiciary Civil Justice Committee. Member, Finance Committee, Insurance, Commerce & Labor Committee and Judicial Criminal Justice Committee. Jan-Michele is an attorney and works for Sesh Communications. President, The Cincinnati Herald Fund, a non-profit that contributes to charitable causes. Host, weekly public affairs television show, "Issues," on WLWT-TV 5. Board member, The Seven Hills School, the Walnut Hills High School Alumni Foundation, ArtsWave, Center for Independent Living Options. President, The Seven Hills Middle School Parents Association. Chair, YWCA's Annual Heart to Heart Racial Justice Breakfast.
- **Rev. Damon Lynch** – Pastor, New Jerusalem Baptist Church. Former president, Baptist Ministers Conference. Founding member, Board of Directors of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Board member, Gwen Mooney Funeral Home, Dan Beard Council of the Boy Scouts of America, University Hospital. Member, Minority Health Alliance at University Hospital.
- **Dr. Inayat Malik** – Board president, Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati. Co-founder, Jewish-Muslim Dialogue (now BRIDGES Muslim-Jewish-Christian Dialogue). Practiced urology for 48 years. Former board member and medical staff president, Bethesda Hospital. Board member, International Academy of Cincinnati, Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati. Founding member and past president, Islamic Association of Cincinnati. Former board member American Red Cross in Cincinnati. Former advisory board member, Bruggeman Center for Interreligious Dialogue at Xavier University.
- **Mikio Nishizu** – Attorney, Frost Brown Todd LLC. Native of Yokohama, Japan. Board member, ArtsWave, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, Japan American Society of Greater Cincinnati. Serves as legal advisor to Indiana Japan Chamber, Tri-State International Education Fund, and Indiana Japanese Language School.
- **Dr. Myrtis Powell** – Retired Vice President, Miami University. Board member, The SeasonGood Foundation, Tri-Health, Bethesda Hospital and Bethesda Foundation, Good Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing, Wheaton College, President's Commission, Partners for South Africa, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Community Investment Committee (former Board member), Advocates for Youth Education. Former board member, Agenda 360 (Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber), Union Central Life Insurance. Former President & CEO, Cincinnati Youth Collaborative.

- **Ed & Carole Rigaud** – Ed is owner, President and CEO, Enova Premier LLC. Co-Director, Taft Business Consulting. Carole is a board member, College of Mt. St. Joseph. Co-chaired, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center’s International Freedom Conductor Awards, Cincinnati Youth Collaborative Dreamkeepers Gala, Healthcare Connection Gala, 4C for Children Cabaret. Honorary chair, African-American Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing. Volunteer, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Lighthouse Youth Services, Advocates for Children. Former board member or officer, Cincinnati May Festival, Dress for Success, Mercantile Library, The Health Foundation, Cincinnati Museum Center, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Northern Kentucky University Foundation, The Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education.
- **Merri Gaither Smith** – Retired Cincinnati Public Schools administrator. Founder, Advocates for Youth Education, Inc., a group of professional women who pool resources and have provided more than \$350,000 in scholarships over 18 years. Co-founder, the 40-year-old Women's Alliance, Inc., whose fundraising efforts provide educational programs and scholarships for high school students. Commissioner, Cincinnati Park Board.
- **Marian Spencer** – Granddaughter of a freed slave, an activist and volunteer in Cincinnati for decades. Former President, Cincinnati Chapter of Links, Fellowship House. Former Vice President, Metropolitan YWCA. First female President, Cincinnati Chapter of the NAACP. First African-American President of Woman’s City Club of Greater Cincinnati. Former Board of Trustees, University of Cincinnati. Former chairperson, U.S. Civil Rights Commission’s Ohio Advisory Committee. In 1983, was first African American female elected to Cincinnati City Council.

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#### **ABOUT THE WORLD CHOIR GAMES:**

The World Choir Games is the largest international choral competition in the world, taking place every two years. The 7<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games in Cincinnati USA will be the first-ever hosted in the United States. The event is expected to attract competitors from about 70 countries; over 200,000 attendees and have a local economic impact of \$73.5 million. Procter & Gamble is the first Presenting Sponsor of the World Choir Games.

#### **ABOUT INTERKULTUR:**

INTERKULTUR, based in Pohlheim, Germany, has ties to 120,000 choirs made up of 4.8 million choral singers around the world. In more than 20 years since INTERKULTUR was established, more than 5,500 choirs and some 250,000 singers from 100 nations have taken part in the World Choir Games and INTERKULTUR's regional choir competitions.

For more information about the 2012 World Choirs Games:

- [www.2012worldchoirgames.com](http://www.2012worldchoirgames.com)
- [Facebook.com/world.choir.games.2012](https://www.facebook.com/world.choir.games.2012)
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