



Ann Arbor Summer Festival

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A2SF Welcomes New Board Members for 2020-2021

ANN ARBOR, MI (November 16, 2020) – The Ann Arbor Summer Festival (A2SF) has welcomed three new members to their Board of Trustees this fall—Eric Helber, Kit Wanty-Lambert, and Taryn Willis.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Taryn, Kit, and Eric to the board,” said Executive Director Mike Michelon. “Their expertise in their respective fields of marketing and education, events and business, and finance enhance the organization’s long-term goals of community engagement, development, and sustainability. Each is hard at work in these areas, and we look forward to their guidance as we head to the future.”

Eric P. Helber has been the Director of Business Development for Bank of Ann Arbor since 2006. For over thirty years, his career has focused on investment consultation, investment management, and retirement services for individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations. Prior to joining Bank of Ann Arbor, he served as Vice President for Fidelity Investments Institutional Services Company as well as serving as Vice President for Strong, CIGNA/Prudential and KeyCorp. Over the past several years, Eric offered financial guidance as a volunteer. Eric has been married to Real Estate Agent Deb Van Til-Helber for over 31 years. They have two adult children, Megan and Annika.

Kit Wanty-Lambert is the Executive Vice President of her family’s local beer distribution business, O&W, Inc, which has worked with and provided sponsorship for the Festival for over a decade. Kit will be transitioning her role as CEO of O&W, Inc. in the coming year. Kit pursued a Fashion Merchandising and Advertising degree at Western Michigan University. O&W is a long time sponsor of the festival, supporting the O&W Grove Stage at Top of the Park and other A2SF events. Kit is married to Adam Lambert and they have two children, a 17-year-old daughter Ava and a 14-year-old son Jimmy who attend Pioneer High School and Tappan Middle School.



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Taryn Willis is the Marketing and Communications Coordinator for Ypsilanti Community Schools as well as a small business owner of a print shop called Ypsilanti Marketing and Print Company in downtown Ypsilanti. Taryn graduated from Eastern Michigan University and majored in Communications with a minor in English American Literature. She went on to get her Master's in Educational Leadership from the Concordia University Ann Arbor and also began her Master's in Business Administration at Concordia University Chicago. Taryn has been an active member of her community by participating in various boards and projects, including Growing Hope Executive Board, current President of the Ypsilanti Rotary Club, and the Girl's Varsity Tennis Coach at Ypsilanti Community High School for the last three years. Taryn is married to Travis Willis, and they have one-year-old Makenzie Rainbow and newborn Harlem Oneal. She also has a 19-year-old son Richard who attends Eastern Michigan University and a 13-year-old stepson Travis.

The Festival's Board is made up of representatives approved by the City Council of Ann Arbor and the Regents of the University of Michigan.

Other Festival Board members for 2020-2021 are: **Christie Bacon, Tony Denton, Charles Ellis, Joseph M. Fazio, Lynette Findley, Tim Freeth, Lauren Hamerink, Rick Jarzembowski, Elph Morgan, Rishi Narayan, Marvin G. Parnes, and Stella Wixom.**

A2SF is an exhilarating celebration of performing arts, outdoor entertainment, and community spirit. An annual international arts gathering in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the three-week festival offers two parallel programs—one indoor and one outdoor—at various venues and spaces across the University of Michigan campus and in downtown Ann Arbor. Each season features a progressive mix of over 200 events showcasing local, national, and international artists and a diverse audience of more than 80,000 people.

The indoor ticketed series includes performances of world-class music, contemporary circus, dance, family entertainment, public radio shows, and comedy. The outdoor program, Top of the Park, is held along a beautiful campus green and offers admission-free concerts, Movies by Moonlight, open-air street spectacle, culinary treats, and unique family attractions. A2SF's admission free series located at Top of the Park was originally scheduled to run nightly from June 12-July 5, 2020 (dark on Mondays) and was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A video recap of the Festival's



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adapted 2020 season can be found [here](#). More details on the 2021 season will be shared in early spring.

A2SF, which was originally formed as a partnership between the University of Michigan and City of Ann Arbor and produced its first, full season in 1984.

For more information on all festival events, please visit the Festival website: a2sf.org

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Photos: [Eric Helber](#) | [Kit Wanty-Lambert](#) | [Taryn Willis](#)