

Gratitude For Service to MMA

Several former or current MMA Board Members have recently retired or are about to. We'll spend the next several MMA Reviews highlighting them.

Brad Taylor (photo) is MMA's most recent former board member to retire. He celebrated his last day as Assistant Director of the Museum Studies Program at the University of Michigan in August. Brad served only one term on the MMA Board of Directors (2013-2015), but he packed a lot into those two years.



Brad's influence as a board member was most felt at the conferences. Brad was responsible for bringing in Graham Beal as the keynote for the conference on Mackinac Island in 2014. That was in the midst of the City of Detroit bankruptcy in which there was consideration of selling artifacts from the collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts to help fund city liabilities. It was an amazing opportunity to get to hear from Graham at that moment in time.

Almost everything about the 2015 conference in Ann Arbor was due to Brad. He brought in his friends and connections to give keynotes and session presentations. He offered his students to help with planning and set up. And he pulled together all of the resources of the university to give us great access to the campus museums. It was a wonderful conference and one that I still hear mentioned by those who attended.

Sometimes a board of directors can focus so much on the nuts and bolts of running an organization that it loses sight of the big picture. During his time on the board, Brad never let the group do that. If there was a discussion about something that seemed was not resolving, Brad would say to the group "But what is it all FOR? What are we trying to DO here?" It always came back to that.



In addition to Brad's great leadership as a board member, he has long been a strong advocate and supporter of the Michigan Museums Association. In 2019, Brad received the [MMA President's Award](#) for service to the field (photo). We are grateful for all he has done throughout his career, and look forward to staying connected during his retirement.