

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR MONTICELLO BOARD

Professor, political advisor and attorney Melody C. Barnes has been elected chair of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Board of Trustees. She is the first



Melody Barnes

African American to lead Monticello's board. Technology entrepreneur Tobias Dengel will serve as vice chair.

"Monticello will benefit from the guidance of Melody Barnes and Tobias Dengel, as well as four outstanding new trustees," said Leslie Greene Bowman, president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation. "Monticello continues

a tradition of strong and visionary board leadership as we plan for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and strengthen our dedication to an honest, inclusive history of Thomas Jefferson, Monticello and the enslaved families who lived and labored here."

Barnes is co-director for policy and public affairs of the Democracy Initiative at the University of Virginia, where she is also a professor at the Miller Center of Public Affairs, a senior fellow at the Karsh Center for Law & Democracy, and an affiliated faculty member at the School of Law. Before joining UVA, she was assistant to the president and director of the White House Domestic Policy Council during the administration of President Barack Obama.

Dengel is the CEO and co-founder of WillowTree, a mobile applications and web development company based in Charlottesville, Virginia. With more than 20 years in digital media, he is also co-founder of Leads.com, an early pioneer in packaging online search products.

Monticello also welcomed four new trustees from across the nation: Renée Grisham of Albemarle County, Virginia; Nancy Cain Marcus of Dallas, Texas; Christopher J. Toomey of Santa Barbara, California; and William H. Walton III of Jacksonville, Florida.



Tobias Dengel

KIMBALLS SET COURSE FOR RESTORATION

As the Thomas Jefferson Foundation prepares to celebrate its 100th year in 2023, it owes much to the early contributions of a powerful husband and wife team. For more than 30 years, from 1923 to 1955, Fiske and Marie Kimball charted a scholarly course for Monticello's restoration and interpretation that still guides our work today.

The first to authoritatively examine Jefferson's architectural drawings, art historian and architect Fiske Kimball wrote that "Jefferson's interest and influence in architecture appear as notable as his services in politics and science." Fiske's perspective was innovative in 1923, when the foundation

was established to preserve and interpret Monticello as a museum. He believed that Jefferson's extensive drawings, notes and correspondence made it "perfectly

feasible to put the place back exactly in the form which it had in his lifetime."

While serving as director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Fiske was also named the first chairman of Monticello's Restoration Committee. He

directed major projects

such as the restoration of Monticello's roof and the introduction of modern necessities, such as steel beams to stabilize the floors and ceilings, and heating and air conditioning.

Fiske's wife, Marie Kimball, shared

equally in her husband's research. She was named Monticello's first curator in 1944 and published extensively on Jefferson and Monticello, including a three-volume biography and *Thomas Jefferson's Cook Book*. Together, the Kimballs managed Monticello's collection policy, determined the authenticity of Jefferson "relics," directed the furnishing of Monticello's interior, and oversaw public relations. As was true for Jefferson, no detail was too small to escape their attention.



Marie and Fiske Kimball

In March, scholars gathered for a virtual conference hosted by the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies, supported by the Fiske and Marie Kimball/Monticello Fund, generously provided by the trustees of the Jane Tarleton Smith Moore estate. Conference organizer Marie Frank is at work on a forthcoming biography of Fiske Kimball. Recordings of the conference, virtual tours and supplemental resources can be found at monticello.org/kimballs.