

DANK Haus Board of Directors Recruitment



Our Mission

It is our mission to preserve and promote German American culture, heritage, and language through our museum, art gallery, library, and language school. And to organize educational and social programming that focuses on and emphasizes the history, traditions, and contributions of Germans and German Americans.

About Us

The DANK Haus is a 501(c)3 organization that promotes German American language and culture. It is one of the founding chapters of the German American National Congress (also known as DANK - Deutsch Amerikanischer National Kongress). DANK National is the largest organization of Americans of Germanic descent. The DANK Haus, also known as Chicago Chapter North, established its roots as part of this organization in 1960.

DANK Haus was built in 1927 by architect Paul Gerhardt, son-in-law of a Chicago Alderman and architect of Cook County Hospital, Lane Technical High School, Von Steuben High School, and the L&H Company Building. It was built for the Three Links Association, a jolly fellows club.

DANK purchased the property in 1967 through the generosity of members who used their own homes as collateral. Over the years, DANK has been host to a spa, a business college, a restaurant, a hotel, and a cafe. In 2003, the facility narrowly escaped being sold, rescued by the infusion of a dedicated and energetic Board and membership. Significant capital improvements have been made over the years and more are on the horizon. The DANK Haus welcomes anyone interested in German and German American heritage and culture to volunteer and serve.

Board of Directors

- Dagmar Freiberger, President
- Mary Owen, First Vice President
- Marco Heuer, Second Vice President
- Rebecca Pope, Secretary
- Dan Wiemerslage, Treasurer
- Erich Freiberger, Director
- Gabriele Kolemäinen, Director
- Tom Gregory, Director
- John Mickey, Director
- John Grischow, Director
- Rebecca Pope, Director
- Eric Bensten, Director

Staff

- Monica Jirak, Executive Director
- Laura Engel, Director of Marketing and Events
- Danica Polanski, Language Director
- Rosa Gallagher, Museum Director
- Charlie Bills, Facilities Manager
- Muradif Duheric, Facilities Engineer

For more information

To learn more about how to get involved in leadership opportunities, please email Governance Committee governance@dankhaus.com

Board Expectations

The DANK Haus is committed to preserving and promoting German language and culture. The Board's primary responsibility is to develop the widest possible support and community involvement for the DANK Haus. We are the governing body of the corporation and we are responsible for managing the business and property of the DANK Haus. As the board:

- Provide organizational leadership and direction
- Ensure that programming adheres and achieves the DANK Haus' mission
- Oversee financials, including adoption and management of an annual operating budget
- Develop volunteer leadership, recruiting a strong board of directors
- Give generously
- Raise funds and in-kind support
- Promote the DANK Haus to the public
- Serve the three-year term

Board Commitment

The DANK Haus Board is a hands-on organization. We expect Board members to be very active and become easily identifiable to members and the community. We also require Directors to be members of DANK Chapter North, as stipulated by our bylaws.

1. Understanding and ensuring that the DANK Haus reaches its mission and vision.
2. Understanding the values of the DANK Haus and using them in my decision-making on behalf of the organization.
3. Attending board meetings, and participating in all such meetings, using fair, independent judgment and due care in conducting the business of the DANK Haus.
4. Serving on at least one committee, attending regular meetings of that committee, and actively participating.
5. Making an annual financial contribution of personal significance, and of at least \$200, to the DANK Haus.
6. Making a good-faith effort to fundraise for the DANK Haus in whatever ways are best suited for me.
7. Serving as an advocate for the DANK Haus.