



Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor

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CITY CLERK  
NEWTON, MA. 02459

May 30, 2023

Honorable City Council  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

To the Honorable City Councilors:

I am pleased to appoint Maruta Vitols of 161 Homer Street, Newton Centre 02459 as a Trustee of the Jackson Homestead. Her term of office shall expire on July 10, 2026 and her appointment is subject to your confirmation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warmly,

Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

**Application Form**

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**Profile**

Maruta \_\_\_\_\_ Z. \_\_\_\_\_ Vitols \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

mvitols@gmail.com \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

161 Homer Street \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address Suite or Apt

Newton Center \_\_\_\_\_ MA \_\_\_\_\_ 02459 \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Postal Code

**What Ward do you live in?**

Ward 6

Mobile: (617) 216-0310 \_\_\_\_\_ Home: (617) 332-7832 \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

A+ College Consulting LLC \_\_\_\_\_ Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer Job Title

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Jackson Homestead: Submitted

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**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

**Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?**

I am a life-long resident of Newton, and I have greatly benefited from the Newton Public School system (I am a graduate of Mason-Rice, Brown, and Newton South). My parents and grandparents were refugees who fled their homeland during WWII, and raised me to have a deep love and appreciation for education, history, and art. An education can never be taken away from a person, and understanding the past is essential to navigating the present. Meanwhile, the arts help the human spirit stay alive and hopeful even in the darkest times. For me, the Jackson Homestead is a place where education, history, and the arts intersect, and it would be my privilege and honor to serve on the Board of Trustees. Having spoken with both Russell Feldman and Anne Larnar, I've learned about some of the future plans for the Jackson Homestead, and I'm excited for the opportunity to be a part of revitalizing such an important historic building in our community. Not only do I have experience working at and volunteering for different museums, I hope to use my training as a media historian and my experience as an educator to help shape the Homestead's next chapter. specifically with an eye towards the new planned exhibition space. I am passionate about giving back to the community that has given me so much, and I have regularly volunteered for years (both as a Transitioning Together mentor at NNHS since 2019 and at the Newton Free Library where I have given free presentations on the college admission process). I would love this opportunity to share my knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm as a Board of Trustees member to help make another lasting, positive difference in my community and at the Jackson Homestead. Thank you for considering my application!

[VITOLS\\_Resume.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

**MARUTA Z. VITOLS, Ph.D.**  
161 Homer Street  
Newton, MA 02459  
617-216-0310, [mvitols@gmail.com](mailto:mvitols@gmail.com)

## EXPERIENCE

**2017 - Present A+ College Consulting LLC, Newton, MA**

*Founder and Owner*

- Comprehensive college consulting, including exploring college majors and careers, college list-building, campus visit and interview preparation, application completion, essay writing, scholarship research and application, financial aid basics, and transitioning from high school to college
- Work one-on-one with students in grades 9-12 in metro-Boston and nationally
- Prioritize student mental health and well-being, "fit" over brand name
- Update parents regularly via email communication
- Manage day-to-day business operations, including budget, scheduling, customer service, and marketing

**2012 - 2017 Olin College of Engineering, Needham, MA**

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Media Studies*

*Visiting Lecturer 2012-2013*

Courses developed and taught:

- *Robots, Mutants, and Monsters: Envisioning Science in Cinema*
- *Media Revolution: Activism and Technology*
- *Virtualities: An Introduction to the History and Theory of Video Games*
- *Movies with a Mission: Politics and the Media*

**2008 - 2013 Emerson College, Boston, MA**

*Adjunct Faculty Member*

Courses developed and taught:

- *Cyberactivism: Crashing the System*
- *History of Media Arts II*
- *21st Century Docs: Recent Non-Fiction Cinema*
- *Fakes and Phonies: Exploring Mockumentaries and Docu-dramas*
- *Media Theory and Criticism*
- *Introduction to Media Arts I*
- *History of Documentary*
- *Courting Controversy: Errol Morris and Michael Moore*
- *The Ideological Eye: Documentary and the State*

**2004 - 2006 Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH**

*Graduate Administrative Associate, Exhibitions*

- Research assistant for Artist-in-Residence and Chief Curator
- Facilitated the catalog production and exhibition organization of Louise Lawler's retrospective *Twice Untitled and Other Pictures*
- Managed Josiah McElheny Visual Artist Residency project
- Coordinated production of catalog for Residency project

- 2001- 2004**    **Olin College of Engineering**, Needham, MA  
*Founder and Facilitator*, For Intelligent Lovers of Movies (F.I.L.M.)
- Launched co-curricular activities for students, faculty, and staff with weekly screenings
  - Determined film selections
  - Lead post-screening discussions
  - Supervised 11 student volunteers and managed budget

- Admission Service Coordinator*, Office of Admission
- Interviewed applicants
  - Presented informational seminars to prospective students
  - Planned special events
  - Hired, trained, and managed five student admission assistants
  - Managed application and reading process
  - Fulfilled student inquiries
  - Maintained admission records, electronic and hard copies, current and archived

- 2001 - 2004**    **Newton Community Education**, Newton, MA  
*Instructor*
- Courses developed and taught:
- *Dark Visions: The Films of Lynch, Burton, and Fincher*
  - *Cinema 101*
  - *The Art of Alfred Hitchcock*

- 2001 - 2002**    **Boston Underground Film Festival**, Brookline, MA  
*Program Coordinator and Office Manager*
- Created press packets
  - Organized Screening and Programming Committees
  - Identified potential festival sponsors
  - Coordinated and supervised four interns

## PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2018 - Present**    Volunteer Mentor, Transitioning Together, Newton North High School
- 2022**                Volunteer College Advisor, Summit Scholars program for high-achieving low-income students
- 2022**                Volunteer, New England Association of College Admission Counseling (NEACAC) Panelist, NEACAC Annual Meeting and Conference, St. Michael's College, Colchester, VT
- 2020**                Volunteer, NEACAC Panelist, NEACAC Career Colloquium
- 2019**                Volunteer, NEACAC Annual Meeting and Conference, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI
- 2018 - 2019**        Volunteer, NEACAC, Member of Sub-Group on Gender Inclusive Language
- 2018**                Volunteer College Counselor, Milford High School, Milford, MA
- 2013 - 2017**        Member, Fulbright Committee, Olin College  
Voting Faculty Admission Committee Member, Application Reader  
Co-leader, Co-Curricular "Grad School 101"

- 2013 - 2014** Co-Organizer, *Are We Game?* Symposium on Video Games and Society, Olin College, Needham, MA, Babson-Olin-Wellesley Innovation Grant program
- 2013** Panelist, "Strategies for the Academic Job Market" workshop, Annual Conference, Society for Cinema and Media Studies
- 2013** Curator, "Control," March 7 - April 13, Brickbottom Artist Gallery, Somerville, MA
- 2011 - 2012** Member, Host Committee for 2012 Conference, Society for Cinema and Media Studies
- 2010 - 2013** Member, Professional Development Committee, Society for Cinema and Media Studies
- 2009 - 2010** Curator, "Latvian Cinema: Past and Present," Film Series, Boston Latvian Community Center, Brookline, MA
- 2008** Advisor, Student Documentary Group, *Captured Emotion*, Emerson College
- 2006 - 2007** Curatorial Assistant and Translator, The Museum of the Occupation of Latvia, 1940-1991, Riga, Latvia
- 2005 - 2006** President, Graduate Student Association, History of Art Department, O.S.U.
- 2004 - 2005** Graduate Student Representative, Curriculum Committee, History of Art Department, O.S.U.

**EDUCATION**

- 2008** **The Ohio State University**, Columbus, OH  
*Ph.D. The History of Art*  
Dissertation: "From the Personal to the Public: Juris Podnieks and Latvian Documentary Cinema"
- 2000** **New York University**, New York, NY  
*M.A. Cinema Studies*
- 1998** **Wellesley College**, Wellesley, MA  
*B.A. Italian Culture*, Summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa  
Thesis: "The Representation of Women in Post-war Italian Cinema Read Through the Historical Context of the Feminist Movement in Italy (1950s - 1990s)"

**LANGUAGES**

- English:** Native language
- Latvian:** First language
- Italian:** Reading, writing, and translating ability
- French:** Reading, writing, and translating ability
- German:** Reading and translating ability

**Syllabi, scholarly publications, and references available upon request**