

Member, MLK Commission

Randall Reid-Smith (Barboursville, West Virginia) has served as the Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History since 2006. His responsibilities include oversight for the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, Archives and History Commission, Capitol Building Commission, and Records Management and Preservation Board, while administering the Arts Section, Archives Section, Historic Section, and the Museums Section for the State of West Virginia. While he has been commissioner, the Division has introduced several programs designed to support youth involvement in arts and history including the West Virginia State History Bowl, the Festival of Songs for middle and high school show choirs, the West Virginia Marching Band Invitational and the first statewide initiative of the VH1 Save The Music Foundation's program bringing free musical instruments to qualified pre-K through middle schools in West Virginia. In 2013, Reid-Smith received the prestigious Support Music award from the National Association of Music Merchants and the National Association for Music Education for his support of and leadership during the statewide rebuild of West Virginia music education programs.

Since the mid-1980s, Reid-Smith maintained an international career as an operatic tenor. He taught private voice lessons and master classes at colleges around the country. Before returning to his native West Virginia, he served as the Director of Education and Outreach and Production at the Toledo (Ohio) Opera Association. Reid-Smith is an accomplished opera singer who has won numerous competitions at the state and regional level and is written up in the International Who's Who of Music and Musicians. He received a Masters of Music from Indiana University and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Reid-Smith was awarded an honorary doctorate of Music from Glenville State University. In 2011, Fairness West Virginia presented Reid-Smith with the Ian Gibson-Smith Award for exemplifying LGBT activism through outstanding service, professionalism and performance in everyday life.

Reid-Smith, who performed in band and choir as a youth, continues to enjoy attending band competitions, band programs and show choir competitions around the state. He has served as an adjudicator for several invitationals and competitions.

