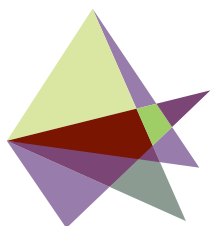




MEET THE FELLOWS

2018 COHORT



NAS

NATIONAL ARTS STRATEGIES



May Babcock
Pawtucket, RI



Stephanie Benenson
Hamilton, MA



Mai Chao
Providence, RI



Carolyn Clayton
North Adams, MA



Angelica Durrell
Stamford, CT



Ceilidh Galloway-Kane
Greensboro, VT



Alexander Golob
Wellesley, MA



Catherine Griffin
Lancaster, NH



Mary Haley
Skowhegan, ME



Christopher Hope
Cambridge, MA



Kristin Humbargar
Essex Junction, VT



Jesse Keller Jason
Chilmark, MA



Jesse Kreitzer
Marlboro, VT



Kristin Leffler
Bar Harbor, ME



Sita Magnuson
Easthampton, MA



Jean Mineo
Medfield, MA



Catherine Morris
Dorchester, MA



Mallory Nezam
Somerville, MA



Aditya Nochur
Somerville, MA



Sheila Novak
Boston, MA



Daniel Pizarro
New Haven, CT



Gowri Savoor
Barre, VT



Kate Schapira
Providence, RI



Andrea Shellman
Boston, MA



Jane Wegscheider
Shelburne Falls, MA



May Babcock
Pawtucket, RI

May Babcock is an interdisciplinary artist and educator whose work is based in hand papermaking. She gathers sketches and materials from sites to create installations and paper works. Babcock exhibits widely, and has taught at Rhode Island School of Design, Women's Studio Workshop, and Pyramid Atlantic Art Center. In 2017, Babcock was awarded a RISCA Project Grant for Pawtucket Paper to teach papermaking from garden weeds with the urban farm network Southside Community Land Trust (SCLT) and the Pawtucket Housing Authority. She also worked with nearly 200 Rhode Island elderly to create a public artwork using local plant fibers. She will be redeveloping a Pawtucket building and establishing a sustainable papermaking art center that uses up local fiber waste to make handmade paper products. The center will offer public event space, a fiber garden, classes, and professional equipment access.



Stephanie Benenson
Hamilton, MA

Stephanie Benenson graduated from Tulane University in 2004 and obtained a Masters in Art from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2017. Her master's thesis, "Anchored in Place: Locational Identity and New Genre Public Art" helped her to acquire a 2017 RISD Graduate Studies Grant to launch new genre public art piece & future public art non-profit "Harbor Voices." As a third-generation artist working on Cape Ann in Massachusetts, Benenson celebrates diversity, local history, and the human need for connectivity to past, present, and future through explorations in community storytelling sessions. The storytelling sessions feed her community collaborative public art installations, which are visualizations of historic exchange and community connectivity around cultural heritage and immigration in Massachusetts' harbor communities.



Mai Chao
Providence, RI

Maia Chao is an interdisciplinary artist from Providence, RI whose work—often playful and absurd—uses existing institutions and their systems as sites of social intervention and critique. Using video, performance, installation, and social practice, she is dedicated to art that models counter-institutions, alternative spaces, and redistribution.

Chao directed an international activist film festival in Spain called, Cine Migratorio, in partnership with local activists and organizations. She taught a video production workshop for local migrants, whose films debuted at the festival. Chao served as a researcher for NOVA's documentary film series on PBS, Building Wonders (2015). She worked as editor for the New Media Caucus Journal on Mestizo Technology: Art, Design, and Technoscience in Latin America (2016).

She recently co-founded a socially engaged art program at the RISD Museum called Look at Art. Get Paid, with prospects to expand to a cohort of art museums. She is slated to participate in Open Engagement (Queens Museum) and The Museum of Capitalism (School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts) in 2018.

Chao is the recipient of a Fulbright grant (Spain), a RISD Presidential Scholarship, and recently completed a fellowship at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, MA. She holds a BA in Anthropology from Brown University and an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design.



Carolyn Clayton
North Adams, MA

Carolyn Clayton is an artist and New England native. Her work seeks to cultivate an enhanced awareness of our shared lives with material things. She received her BFA from Carnegie Mellon University and her MFA from the University of Michigan, along with a certificate in Museum Studies. In 2016 she was awarded the Dedalus Foundation MFA Fellowship in Sculpture.

She recently participated in residencies at Elsewhere in Greensboro, NC and the A-Z Institute for Investigative Living in Joshua Tree. The combination of these two experiences nurtured her instincts about what it means to create a sustainable creative practice over a lifetime and how important affordable physical space is to that goal. As a member of the 2018 North Adams Project cohort, a program of MASS MoCA, she relocated her life North Adams, MA. Along with her partner Ben Westbrook, she purchased a building and is working on creating an artist residency.



Angelica Durrell
Stamford, CT

Angelica Durrell is a violinist, educator, and social entrepreneur whose career centers on music education and community engagement. After graduating with a B.M. from the University of Connecticut on a full talent-based scholarship, she attended the American Express Leadership Academy and was a National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC) Intercultural Leadership Institute fellow. She has held speaking engagements at Princeton University and the University of Michigan, among others. She is an artist ambassador for SpreadMusicNow.

Angie's project during this fellowship is to continue her life's work—making classical and intercultural music accessible, relevant, and inclusive through INTEMPO, the non-profit organization she founded upon graduating from college. Her experience of emigrating to the U.S. from Ecuador as a non-English-speaking 8-year-old, being raised in a single-parent household with very limited financial means and integrating into the mainstream of American life through music drives her to use the arts to make a difference in the lives of children in her community who come from similar backgrounds and who face similar struggles.



Ceilidh Galloway-Kane
Greensboro, VT

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane is a native of East Hardwick, Vermont and a 2011 graduate of Smith College. She majored in Art History and Museum Education, while also leading tours, developing educational materials, and installing exhibitions for the Smith College Botanic Garden and Museum of Art. Ceilidh's lifelong interest in arts advocacy and education has guided her career path with a variety of nonprofits including The Children's Museum and Theater of Maine, Open Space Studios, Catamount Arts, and more.

Today, Ceilidh serves as the Executive Director of WonderArts Vermont. Galloway-Kane became the director after navigating a merger between The Art House (the organization to which she was formerly Executive Director) and Wonder & Wisdom. Ceilidh's creativity and tenacity continue to inspire dynamic programming for individuals of all ages. An artist herself, she is a true advocate for creativity and arts education in our communities throughout the state.



Alexander Golob
Wellesley, MA

Alexander Golob was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts to a bilingual, Italian and Jewish-American household. He then spent his teenage years in Wellesley, MA, after which he studied art in both Boston and Venice, Italy. In 2012 he and his mother co-founded the Wellesley arts non-profit, Wellesley Parents Supporting Art Students, in which he remains an active board member.

It is his mission to create engaging art that expands beyond the walls of a gallery to provoke thought in the public, lifts up viewers, and transforms physical space. He recently opened a 2,500 sq. ft art show in Boston, has held an interactive snapchat art installation at the Peabody Essex Museum, and worked with the City of Methuen on a public art initiative. Golob is excited to be working with Haverhill community members to create art that will lift up their voices and celebrate immigrants both old and new.

He loves everything about food. Learning its historical origins, making it, sharing it with others, and its power to build bridges among all people.

Kate is the new Executive Director of the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire. She has a PhD in American Studies from way back, has held leadership roles in social justice organizations, and worked in social entrepreneurship. As an inveterate generalist, she has had her hand in everything from communications strategy, prototyping programs, and leadership development to event planning, business development, and managing finance. She finally found her niche in the world of art and wellness. Over the last four years, her work at the intersection of these fields has included facilitating Movies for Mental Health workshops for Art With Impact, co-founding an art and wellness organization called The Storefront Institute, and creating San Francisco Seniors Remember, a collaborative oral history project.

Raised in New Hampshire's North Country, she is thrilled to be back home from a two-decade stint in California, working with Northern New Hampshire's regional arts and culture alliance. She looks forward to bringing art and community-building together with the Ex-Pat Project.



Catherine Griffin
Lancaster, NH



Mary Haley
Skowhegan, ME

Mary has traveled across Maine working in the tourism sector for the last ten years, but lack of creativity and job satisfaction led her back to her hometown and to a position with the Wesserunsett Arts Council and Main Street Skowhegan. Mary was hired in August of 2017 as the Project Coordinator for both nonprofits and furthered their partnership. For Main Street Skowhegan she does mainly project planning and event marketing (among many other things) and for Wesserunsett Arts Council, it is Mary's job to implement the goals and objectives of the newly finalized Somerset County Rural Cultural Plan.

During this fellowship Mary will be working on a newly conceptualized art project called Fire on the Kennebec. Wesserunsett Arts Council will commission and install sculptures, designed to include a fire brazier, in the Kennebec River throughout Somerset County. These sculptures will promote Somerset County's identity by turning the focus for Somerset's old mill towns, back to the river.

Christopher Hope is currently the founder and president of The Loop Lab, a nonprofit dedicated in empowering youth to enter STEAM careers through audio engineering and music education. Having received his B.A. from Tufts University, Hope pursued ordination while receiving an M. Div. degree from Harvard Divinity School in 2011. A former scientist, his career shift from microbiology to ministry came after a near fatal car accident helped transform his outlook and mission. Mr. Hope serves as an outreach minister for his church, Pentecostal Tabernacle. Mr. Hope is also an accomplished musician and on-air personality with a podcast and radio broadcast brand called "Hip-Hope Radio."



Christopher Hope
Cambridge, MA



Kristin Humbargar
Essex Junction, VT

Kristin Humbargar is a social entrepreneur, community connector, artist and creative space maker. She holds degrees in Fine Art and theater, and certifications in positive psychology, positive OD, brain based coaching and leadership development. Kristin co-founded Essex Hub, LLC, co-working and co-creative spaces that provide support for development of entrepreneurial endeavors, creative economy, creative community building and development. Some of the projects presented through Essex Hub have been Main Street Studio a community gathering space for creativity and artist studios, steAmfest a 2 day Arts and Innovation festival focusing the STEM fields and the Arts, with a specific eye toward experience and aesthetic as an invitation and introduction to the impact of art on innovation and vice versa, with a specific eye toward contributions of women and girls.

Humbargar's over arching project is bringing a community with a creative deficit opportunities to consider how the arts can impact sense of place, engage potential, improve economy and community wellbeing.



Jesse Keller Jason
Chilmark, MA

Jesse Keller Jason raised in Ashland, OH, graduated from Ohio University with a BFA in Performance and Choreography. Upon graduation, she performed nationally and internationally with contemporary dance artist, Stefanie Batten Bland, at multiple festivals, university residencies, and performance venues. She is a year-round resident on Martha's Vineyard where she serves as Director of Island Programs and Education/Co-Producer at The Yard, and Co-Artistic Director of DanceTheYard (DTY), The Yard's resident dance collective. At The Yard, she has played an instrumental role in implementing Making It, a dance-making and creativity initiative active on Martha's Vineyard. Ms. Keller Jason has represented The Yard at conferences including; National Dance Educators, Association of Performing Arts Professionals, National Performance Network and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation: Building Demand for The Arts. In 2014 she was named 'Woman of the Year' by Women Empowered MV for her work in dance education.



Jesse Kreitzer
Marlboro, VT

Jesse Lockwood Kreitzer is a filmmaker from Marlboro, Vermont, whose interests include rural storytelling, agrarian life, and folk cultures. Using genealogical research and archival materials as creative conduit, Kreitzer's films explore the preservation of memory, family lineage and tradition. His work has been awarded Oscar®-qualifying and regional Emmy® awards and exhibited at festivals, galleries and museums worldwide including: The National Gallery of Art, Museum of the Moving Image, Biografilm, Raindance, Oldenburg, Camden, and Ashland, among others.

Kreitzer is currently producing CAREGIVERS, a documentary hybrid film about grassroots, in-home eldercare in rural Vermont. Told over the course of four seasons and featuring live accompaniment by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Kreitzer intend to present the film to rural and medically-underserved communities using a pay-what-you-can ticketing model.



Kristin Leffler
Bar Harbor, ME

Kristin Leffler is an award-winning radio and film documentarian whose work has been recognized by the Television Academy, Loreen Arbus Foundation, Alaska Press Club and Society of Professional Journalists. For the past two years, she has worked to grow the historic 1932 Criterion Theatre in Bar Harbor, Maine and has gained invaluable insight into how to build support and engagement for rural arts organizations. She looks forward to combining her passions for journalism, education and rural places to develop her longtime idea for The Scoop, a community-focused media arts production center and ice cream shop for teens.



Sita Magnuson
Easthampton, MA

Sita is an astute listener with a highly developed capacity for translating complex conversations, dialogues, and presentations into visual form in the service of individual and collective understanding and action. In her work as a graphic facilitator, she works with clients to gain contextual understanding, then designs visual approaches, processes and frameworks that best support the group's work both in and after the session.

In addition to graphic facilitation, Sita has nearly 20 years' experience in the field of collaborative design and facilitation, and is deeply versed in the methodology, processes, models, and tools developed by MG Taylor. Her work as a graphic facilitator and a process (or systems) facilitator are enabled and enhanced through her collaboration with an international group of designers and facilitators—The Value Web. She is also the co-founder of Mass Collaborative, a process design and facilitation firm, and Easthampton Co. Lab, a community-oriented coworking and learning space. She lives in Western Massachusetts.



Jean Mineo
Medfield, MA

Jean Mineo is a manager of community-based visual arts organizations whose focus has been connecting artists and audiences. She brings art to public places through temporary and permanent installations in greater Boston. Recently, she was Director of the 36-member cooperative Boston Sculptors Gallery, Director of the Jamaica Plain Open Studios, and Director of the New Art Center in Newton. Mineo received a Mass Cultural Council Leadership Circle Award in 2015, and Medfield's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2017. In 2015, Mineo helped established the Cultural Alliance of Medfield to nurture and support cultural programs that encourage collaboration, experimentation, and meaningful dialogue, and create an environment to foster the arts as a cultural necessity. During the Fellowship, she will be working to advance a cultural campus at the heart of the former Medfield State Hospital.



Catherine Morris
Dorchester, MA

Boston native, Catherine T. Morris is an Events Curator, Arts Grassroots Organizer and Founder of BAMS Fest, Inc. She has spent the last 15 years using her skills in event production and youth development to create atmospheres of belonging for marginalized communities of color. During this fellowship, Ms. Morris will be working on her festival project, which strives to promote the contributions of black arts and music to the City of Boston, all while working towards addressing implicit bias and microaggressions by venues and larger white institutions.



Mallory Nezam
Somerville, MA

Mallory Nezam's creative interventions catalyze strangers to interact with each other and their public contexts. Her work is emergent in each site and creates the climate for small, transformative moments amid the mundane. Founding Director of guerrilla performance collective STL Improv Anywhere, activist co-creator of #ChalkedUnarmed and Mirror Casket which emerged out of Ferguson, and currently Arts & Culture Fellow at MAPC Boston, she is convinced that sharing creative expressions in public space is a political act that strengthens autonomy and builds community.

Mallory integrates intervention, performance, play, movement, and mindfulness to activate the public spaces of cities and challenge the social imprints of dominant power structures. With NCCF she'll further develop Building as Body, an exploration of the embodied histories of buildings. Mallory recently helped Transportation for America create their inaugural Arts & Culture department and is a Masters of Design candidate in Harvard University's Art, Design & the Public Domain program.



Aditya Nochur
Somerville, MA

Adi Nochur is an urban planner, a sustainability and justice advocate, and a cultural organizer and MC with Subcontinental Drift Boston (a.k.a. SubDrift), a monthly open mic series elevating local South Asian performers and voices. Through the Creative Community Fellows program, Adi will build SubDrift's leadership capacity to expand its programmatic offerings.

A Boston-area native and resident, Adi was inspired to environmental activism at a young age by his uncle in India. He has spent over a decade in the movement for climate justice, where his work has taken him from college campuses in New England to campaign initiatives in Washington, D.C. to United Nations negotiations in Canada and Mexico. As an urban planner, he now seeks to create local solutions to society's sustainability challenges.

A longtime guitarist and spoken word artist, Adi performs cross-cultural music and poetry with his original project Solaradicals. He is also an avid bicyclist and a diehard Boston Bruins fan.



Sheila Novak
Boston, MA

Sheila Novak is the Public Art Project Manager at the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy in downtown Boston. Sheila is committed to producing projects that strengthen communities. Prior to working at The Greenway, Sheila worked on placemaking and public art projects in Minneapolis, Minnesota, including Northern Spark, Art Shanty Projects and the John Biggers Seed Project. An artist herself, Sheila's work explores place, landscape, memory and loss through multimedia works. She also served for two years as the Artist in Residence for Hennepin County Medical Center, where she worked with cancer and pediatric patients, co-creating and installing artwork to alleviate the stress and anxiety associated with hospital stays and treatment. At the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, Sheila manages the creation and installation of new artwork for the parks. Sheila seeks to grow the Public Art Program to encompass placemaking projects to build space for all communities in Boston through the arts.



Daniel Pizarro
New Haven, CT

Daniel is a graphic designer with a practice that focuses on social justice and collaboration. His work seeks to create an inclusive process that promote discourse around equity and community led solutions. He has worked for, collaborated and organized with community groups, nonprofits, educational and cultural institutions, and local/federal government. Daniel is currently focused on developing an initiative called the Youth Justice Design Collaborative (YJDC), which aims to work with youth of color to create advocacy campaigns and promote racial equity through design. Daniel received his MFA from the Yale School of Art in 2012 and his BA from the UCLA Design Media | Arts program in 2007. Through his work as a designer, Daniel hopes to encourage a more probing outlook into design possibilities based on collectivism and inclusive participation to address social and racial disparities in our cities.



Gowri Savor
Barre, VT

Gowri Savor is a visual artist and educator, whose practice includes sculpture, visual storytelling and the Indian art of Rangoli. Born in England, she was educated in Manchester and Leeds, and moved to the United States in 2007. Having worked with some awe-inspiring street-theater and arts organizations, such as Walk the Plank and Bread & Puppet Theater, she founded A River of Light, an organization committed to bringing art to the community through participatory art events, parades and installations.

For the past ten years, she has been working with schools and communities across Vermont and New England to develop ideas, hone skills and build joy, in preparation for hosting local community lantern parades. Most recently, she has been developing an ambitious project that aims to establish an annual state-wide celebration of light, community and the creative arts, initiating a new tradition that will be sustainable for years to come. When she isn't making, dreaming and teaching art, she can be found walking through the forest with a little red dog.



Kate Schapira
Providence, RI

Kate Schapira is the author of six books of poetry, most recently *FILL: A Collection* (Trembling Pillow Press, 2016), a collaboration about waste with Erika Howsare. Her prose focusing on the affective aspects of climate change and environmental degradation has appeared in *The Rumpus*, *The Toast* and *Catapult*, and as an e-chapbook with Essay Press. She lives in Providence, RI, where she writes, teaches, runs the Publicly Complex reading series, and periodically offers Climate Anxiety Counseling. “Flood Lines” is a series of site-specific performances at current and projected high water marks in Rhode Island: on five distinct days, participants from five communities will converge on the shoreline, providing a corporeal marker of where the water will rise, while reciting lines that they’ve generated through workshops led by local artists. They’ll pick up trash and invite others to walk with them, providing an audible and visual marker of change that will show our smallness in the landscape, and our connection with it and each other.

Andrea Shellman is a member of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (Bethel AME Church) and volunteers as the Bethel AME Church Director of CreativiTEA. CreativiTEA a creative and visual arts ministry aimed at connecting people to each other and facilitating worship through the arts. Along with members of CreativiTEA, Andrea has organized events and activities such as, an Earth Day Art exhibit, group trips to area museums, and a monthly gathering for creating and connecting. Andrea also is a Lead Program Manager at Brigham and Women’s Hospital’s (BWH) Department of Quality and Safety. In addition to supporting a culture of safety at BWH, Andrea leads a rotating group of pharmacy interns in discussions about art, communication and collaboration. As a Creative Community Fellow, Andrea will work with communities of faith to provide a physical space for artists to share their work and people to appreciate, enjoy, connect, and collaborate in the process of creating.



Andrea Shellman
Boston, MA



Jane Wegscheider
Shelburne Falls, MA

Jane Beatrice Wegscheider has an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and 30 years of teaching experience in schools and community art programs. She has created participatory, community art projects for 20 years and believes creative engagement is essential and possible for all. She is the founding artist-director of The Art Garden, which has become a vital part of hill town life in western Franklin County. Her broad range of skills, intuitive support of individual creativity, and love of work that brings people together, shapes the Social Sculpture that The Art Garden is. She believes artists have an integral role to play in addressing local and global issues. She collaborates with artists and community members to develop and maintain a dynamic and relevant organization. She balances her work as director of a small non-profit with an interdisciplinary, studio practice and vibrant small-town life.



IN COLLABORATION WITH



The Center for
Social Impact Strategy



SUPPORTED BY

