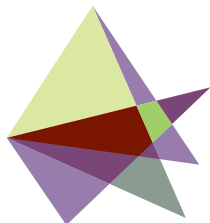




CREATIVE COMMUNITY FELLOWS



NAS

NATIONAL ARTS STRATEGIES



Megan Bullock
Charleston, WV



David Burt
Hapeville, GA



Demone Carter
San Jose, CA



Taneisha Duggan
Hartford, CT



Naomi Even-Aberle
Rapid City, SD



Laura Gisler
Saint Paul, MN



Chris Horne
Akron, OH



Cornetta Lane
Detroit, MI



Mei Lum
New York, NY



Gregory Milo
Akron, OH



Kia Moore
Kannapolis, NC



Jordan Reeves
Brooklyn, NY



Jaclyn Roessel
Bernalillo, NM



Lula Saleh
Minneapolis, MN



Taraneh Sarrafzadeh
San Jose, CA



Ben Sax
Los Angeles, CA



Clinnesha Sibley
McComb, MS



Kristianna Smith
New Britain, CT



Quentin Turner
Detroit, MI



Romain Vakilitabar
Littleton, CO



Joan Vorderbruggen
Minneapolis, MN



Ash Williams
Charlotte, NC



Suzanne Wise
Wahkon, MN



Laurel Antonmarchi
Rapid City, SD



Adrienne Benjamin
Isle, MN



Claro de los Reyes
Brooklyn, NY



Lori Erickson
Encino, CA



Nimo Farah
Minneapolis, MN



Teré Fowler-Chapman
Tucson, AZ



Katelyn Freil
Akron, OH



Jerrell Gibbs
Baltimore, MD



Torres Hodges
Rochester, MN



Dulce Juarez
Phoenix, AZ



Stephanie Kent
New York, NY



Hamida Khatri
Baltimore, MD



Kevin Marchman
Denver, CO



Jaimie McGirt
Todd, NC



Allentza Michel
Boston, MA



Dominic Moore-Dunson
Akron, OH



Van Pham
Portland, OR



Emily Puthoff
Kingston, NY



Benjamin Rexroad
Akron, OH



Erin Salazar
San Jose, CA



Usha Srinivasan
San Jose, CA



Tim Syth
Milwaukee, WI



Robert Warren
New Orleans, LA



Bucky Willis
Detroit, MI



Emily Arden Eakland
Mt. Ranier, MD



Bridget Bartolini
South Richmond Hill, NY



Chad Bradford
Little Rock, AR



Erin Bregman
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Nicolas Cabrera
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Hallie Ertman
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Kristin
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Meghan Frank
Denver, CO



Jill Freeman
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Jeremie Gluckman
San Francisco, CA



Sarah Gonzales
Tucson, AZ



Carly Griffith
Charlottesville, VA



Megan Hobza
Whittier, CA



Mary Hoffman
Alamosa, CO



Lauren Latessa
Ellicott City, MD



Perryne Lee Poy
Lokhandwala
Brooklyn, NY



Dan Leng
Seattle, WA



Dessa Lohrey
Atlanta, GA



Erik Martinez Resly
Washington, DC



Nikiko Masumoto
Del Ray, CA



Mario Mesquita
Los Angeles, CA



Charlie Michaels
Ann Arbor, MI



Matic Moore
Tucson, AZ



Tico Moore
Wilmington, DE



Mikelle Moore
Sunny Isles Beach, FL



Elena Olascoaga
Monterey, MEXICO



Aneliese Palmer
Anchorage, AK



Sara Potler LaHayne
New York, NY



Julie Potter
San Francisco, CA



Laura Ritchie
Durham, NC



Nathalie Sanchez
Los Angeles, CA



Ginger Savage
Baker City, OR



Aletheia Shin
Baltimore, MD



Yvonne Shortt
Long Island City, NY



Jessica Solomon
Baltimore, MD



Sarah Sullivan
Phoenix, AZ



Christopher Taylor
Flagstaff, AZ



Nell Taylor
Chicago, IL



Joe Tolbert
New York, NY



David White
San Diego, CA



Carol Zou
Philadelphia, PA



Kate Balug
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Nicole Bennett
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Corina Bucea
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Justina Crawford
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Sadiqua Crutcher
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Tanya Daud
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Dawn DiPrince
Pueblo, CO



Hannah Fox
Derbyshire, UK



Mina Girgis
San Francisco, CA



Angie Goerner
Washington, DC



Philip Gaulty
Los Angeles, CA



Sara Greer
Portland, OR



Alma Guzman
Huntington Beach, CA



Abdul Karim Hakib
Accra, GHANA



Rachel Hamilton
Nashville, TN



Lisa Harper Chang
St. Louis, MO



Danny Harris
San Jose, CA



Kate Jopson
Los Angeles, CA



Laurelin Kruse
Los Angeles, CA



Al Letson
Jacksonville, FL



Valerie Liais
Marrakesh, MOROCCO



Alex Macharia
Nairobi, KENYA



Hayk Makhmuryan
Los Angeles, CA



Sifiso Maposa
Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA



Erik Moe
Washington, DC



Monica Montgomery
Brooklyn, NY



Katy Moonan
Northampton, MD



Jess Moore
Durham, NC



Kristina
Newman-Scott
Hartford, CT



Christina Nip
San Francisco, CA



Elise Pepple
Marfa, TX



Damaris Pereda
Huntington Beach, CA



Steve Prince
Meadville, PA



Julie Rada
Salt Lake City, UT



Rachel
Reynolds Luster
Thayer, MO



Josh Rice
Perry, NY



Madeline Sayet
New York, NY



Andrew Shea
New York, NY



Scott Shigeoka
San Francisco, CA



Amanda Thompson
Miami, FL



Chris Webb
Cleveland, OH



Emilia White
Ann Arbor, MI



Tamara Williams
Cliffside Park, NJ



Heidi Wright
Mesa, AZ



Hunter Wright
Minneapolis, MN



Laurel Antonmarchi
Rapid City, SD

Laurel Antonmarchi is an award-winning graphic designer and artist who is passionate about making the arts more accessible and less intimidating to youth in underserved areas. She grew up with limited access to the arts in a quiet, rural South Dakota town of 700 people. Always one to challenge the status quo, Laurel felt stifled by the conventional characteristics of rural life; nonetheless, it allowed her to better understand that kids need to feel safe enough to be creative.

After receiving a small grant from Arts Rapid City, Laurel organized Doodle Downtown, Rapid City's first ever chalk art competition. She will continue to expand Doodle Downtown into workshops for youth in rural towns and reservation communities throughout South Dakota, therapeutically engaging their imagination and building creative confidence through the friendly and familiar medium of chalk.

When Laurel isn't playing with pixels or chalk dust, she reaches for her camera and skateboard, and loves discovering new trails in the Black Hills.

Emily is passionate about artists, as well as making art accessible to communities. She is the Co-Founder of ReCreative Spaces, an organization working to create hubs of creativity in unused, underused, and unlikely places. Emily is a practicing artist (dancer), with a knack for designing spaces that are inviting and creatively-charged. Emily delights in all things slightly off the beaten path. Her wanderings have taken her from California to New Orleans, Washington State to Philadelphia, and back to Washington, DC. Her loves; community engagement, dance, creativity, travel, and designing spaces, have been the driving forces behind her work. Emily's project includes transforming an airstream bus into a retrofitted, roaming art space that would make its debut in a cross-country trip, stopping in cities along the way to engage in community art-making. She imagines the project as an ongoing creative tapestry, or a game of art-making telephone. Two artists would travel to the next city, team up with local artists, engage in community-fostered art-making, and then return home with a new outlook, as two new artists pick up where they left off and continue on with the journey to the next city. The final project would be shared with each of the communities involved in the tour.



Emily Arden Eakland
Mt. Ranier, MD



Kate Balug
Cambridge, MA

Inspired by science fiction worlds and informed by urban planning studies, Kate's practice flows from performance, installation, and sculpture to teaching, civic design, and planning research. Her projects strive toward an agonistic practice, working not to eradicate conflict but to facilitate ongoing deliberation of difference. She has worked with youth in Mexico City, Boston, and St. Louis, among others, helping them re-imagine themselves as agents of change in their cities. Play is often the common language that facilitates engagement beyond fixed rationales and expectations. The vision for the Department of Play (DoP) storefront is to bring moments of spontaneous play to public space, conduct research, and construct hands-on experiences that build collective identity, foment curiosity, and inspire community members to form a refreshed image of the city and their agency to shape it in dense, diverse communities. Kate plays drums and lives in Cambridge, MA with my fiancée Nick and our cat Pasta.



Bridget Bartolini
South Richmond Hill, NY

Bridget is a socially engaged artist with a background in community education who creates sites for hyper-localized story sharing to strengthen community connections between neighbors. Inspired by her love for New York City, frustrated with the lack of cultural programming in areas like her home neighborhood in Queens, and armed with a Masters degree in Community Education from Columbia University's Teachers College, Bridget launched the Five Boro Story Project in 2013 to produce community storytelling events that pay homage to the people and places in New York that are often overlooked. Five Boro Story Project programs bring New Yorkers together through the act of sharing personal stories and art inspired by their neighborhoods. Bridget has produced cultural events in all five boroughs of New York City, and is excited to expand the Five Boro Story Project.



Adrienne Benjamin
Isle, MN

Adrienne Benjamin is a 32 year old mother of two daughters. She is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. She was a part of Cohort 5 of the Native Nation Rebuilders Program, and is also a Blandin Community Leadership Program alum.

She currently works as an Ojibwe Language & Curriculum Coordinator at the Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin (Mille Lacs Band Cultural Grounds).

She loves spending her time doing traditional activities and her secret talent (not so secret now) is singing.

Adrienne's passion lies in working with native youth. She recently co-founded a program called Ge-niigaanizijig (The Ones That Will Lead) that sets vulnerable tribal youth on a path to success by teaching them language arts, tribal governance, leadership, and promoting higher education. She hopes to continue her work with tribal youth by promoting arts and theater in her tribal nation.



Nicolle Bennett
Astoria, NY

Nicolle is a nonprofit professional currently working with an arts education and advocacy organization called Feel the Music!, having also worked in curriculum development and health education with the Education Development Center and the National Cancer Institute. She believes that when it comes to social change, it takes not only a top-down or bottom-up approach — it takes both. Her project will create a network that would allow artists, community-based organizations and policymakers/other decision-makers to connect in a more meaningful way, leveraging the unique ability of the arts to engage, along with the use of technology as a platform to connect, to create an environment for more sustainable and innovative change to occur. She loves making connections; between people, ideas, and seemingly unrelated fields in order to come together creatively to find innovative solutions to problems. She loves helping people to see things in a new way through the medium of photography, along with all forms of dance.



Chad Bradford
Little Rock, AR

Growing up in the South, Chad dreamed he would be a pro-wrestler when he grew up. As he got older, he realized it wasn't his biceps that were growing, but his interest in the sport's storytelling aspect. He quit athletics and took up theatre full-time. Soon, he found himself doing Shakespeare across the country. He loved exploring the themes in these 400-year-old plays, and they quickly had an effect on him, inspiring a desire to create something that would explore and reveal serious issues going on in the world right now. He is now eager to tell the stories of those that feel they have no voice. For this Fellowship project, he plans on working with prisoners to uncover their inner artist, as well as their story. Not only could this encourage their personal growth, but also increase compassion and understanding with our communities.



Erin Bregman
San Francisco, CA

Erin is a San Francisco playwright and Teaching Artist who has led nearly 100 groups of children and adults through the creation of original operas. She has taught for San Francisco Opera's ARIA program, and has created mini-operas with the San Francisco Boys Chorus, The Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, and the Randall Museum. In 2012, Erin traveled to Oslo for the First International Teaching Artist Conference. As a playwright, Erin's work has been produced by Just Theater, Playground, and the Washington DC Source Festival. She has been a multi-year finalist for the Princess Grace award and Global Age Project, and was a 2009 nominee for the Pony Fellowship. The project she'll be working on is Little Opera, where she makes operas with kids. When not immersed in a project, she can often be found riding her bike across the city to the ocean.



Corina Bucea
Cluj, ROMANIA

Corina is a cultural manager, currently working as a manager of The Paintbrush Factory, an independent contemporary arts center located in Cluj, Romania. Since 2009, she has been responsible for the general management, communication and strategy of the collective space that gathers galleries, organizations and independent contemporary artists. Her main areas of interest are cultural policies, education through arts, research and training in culture, while also being highly involved, during the last three years, in coordinating various projects in arts and culture. Ms. Bucea holds degrees in philosophy and public policy and has trained in non-academic contexts in cultural management.



Megan Bullock
Charleston, WV

Megan Bullock, a RISD grad, is the creative director at her design/tech studio, MESH Design. At MESH, Megan uses design and other participatory creative practices to build communication tools for socially-driven organizations. Offices in NY and WV, Megan has worked with clients like ACLU, CMANY, and UPENN. As a SAPPI 'Ideas That Matter' grant recipient, she is the designer of the Columbia University People Building Better Cities inclusive urban planning exhibition, which showed in 12 cities globally. Megan mentors, teaches workshops, and public speaks on design at colleges and conferences, as local as WV Farmers Gatherings and as global as the UN Habitat World Urban Forum.

Megan is currently revitalizing an abandoned Appalachian building, The Linn, in West Virginia. The Linn has become a personal creative place-making project- home to artists and makers, to her WV MESH studio, and to MAKESHOP, an experimental design/build education project.

Megan plans to explore the MAKESHOP project in this Fellowship.



Scott Burkholder
Baltimore, MD

Scott is the principal and founding agent of Burkholder agency. He is analytically minded and trained, and has awe for the power of human creativity. He believes that art changes the world. He produced the the largest self initiated public art project in the city of Baltimore, has coached over 50 artists into launching sustaining careers and he manages a small community of artists to live thriving creative practices. He is presently producing two books with intent on feature length film production. He lives in the Douglass District of Baltimore Maryland and spends lots of time reading, biking, WODing, and with his wife Jenn.



David Burt
Hapeville, GA

David Burt is an urban planning professional with almost twenty years of experience in matters related to arts administration, economic development, and commercial and residential property development.

He has diverse experience in both the public and private sectors with a strong background in downtown redevelopment efforts. He has overseen adaptive re-use projects throughout the Southeast, managed the development of commercial and residential properties, and written market and planning studies for a variety of local governments.

In 2010, David was one of the founders of the Hapeville Arts Alliance, and he currently serves on the Board of Directors of Living Walls: The City Speaks. David has a Bachelor's degree in Building Construction and a Master's degree in City Planning, both from Georgia Tech.



Nicolas Cabrera
Boulder, CO

Nico was born and raised in Guatemala and has lived all over the U.S. While learning Kaqchiquel he first realized the important role of food in generating a bond and identity within a culture. Later, working jointly at La Peña Cultural Center and Los Cilantros restaurant, he remembered this idea of how a food can connect cultures and generations in one place. Nico's project will bring people together to share meals, create art, build community, and learn from each other.



Casey Caldwell
Santa Barbara, CA

Casey is a director, writer, actor, and the head of Ratatat Theater Group in Santa Barbara, CA. Ratatat makes "remix theater" — plays created from a variety of sources remixed around a central idea. For this fellowship, Casey developed a documentary play, The Home Project. Ratatat interviewed locals about how they make their home here — in a mansion, under an overpass, or squeezed in an apartment — and combine that with the stories of the Native Americans, ranchers, Utopians and tycoons that made Santa Barbara their home in our past. Ratatat used that material for a string of storytelling nights, work with community organizations to use the stories to jumpstart public discussions, and concluded with a play. Casey grew up in Thailand, has lived with his wife in Santa Barbara for the last 10 years, and his non-theater passions include his bicycle, his garden, and his stove-top.



Katie Campbell
Little Rock, AR

Katie is a theatre practitioner and teaching artist in Little Rock, Arkansas. For seven years she has been a company member with the Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theater and improviser with ImprovLittleRock. She is also the co-founder/director of the youth improv comedy company, Armadillo Rodeo. She is a 2015 Jim Henson Foundation Family Grant recipient for her devised shadow puppet play for young people, *The Ugly Duckling*. She has an MFA in directing Theatre for Young Audiences from UNC-Greensboro and a BA in Theatre Arts from UNC-Charlotte. As a Fellow she will be focusing on developing performing and visual arts programming for incarcerated youth of Little Rock and across the state of Arkansas. She is passionate about providing spaces of dialogue for young people onstage and off. She strives to create work that youth connect with and see their lives reflected in the art.



Crystal Campbell
Belleville, MI

Crystal is a passionate, creative, performer and educator with a soft spot for the souls of Black girls. A recent M.A. graduate, her project, *Sister Speaks: Empowering Girls Through Voice*, grew from her work in Interactive Theater. It uses public speaking techniques, interactive theater, mentorship and participatory teaching techniques to empower girls in post-industrial cities like Ypsilanti, Flint, and Highland Park, MI (home of the historic Bomber plant). She developed and performed a one woman show called "Daddy Love" that used personal narratives to examine the lasting effects of fatherless daughters, through three distinct voices: Baby Girl, Mama and Daddy. Crys would ultimately like to include some sort of element of personal narrative and performance into the "Sister-Speaks" project. Crys is wife to a supportive husband, mama to a smarty-pants three-naged boy, collegiate speech instructor, researcher and bibliophile and closeted essayist. Her motto: It's not the being, it's the BECOMING.



Demone Carter
San Jose, CA

Demone Carter is an award winning artist, educator and social entrepreneur from San Jose, California. Performing under the name DEM ONE, he has released several albums and was named a 2016 Silicon Valley Artist Laureate.

In 2004 Demone co-founded Unity Care's Hip Hop 360 after-school program. From 2004 to 2010, Hip Hop 360 provided over 1,000 youth the opportunity to express themselves through hip hop. Building on his experiences with Hip Hop 360, Demone started FutureArtsNow!, a for-profit venture that seeks to fill the void left by vanishing school arts programs.

More recently Demone has joined the staff of the The School of Arts and Culture at MHP (SOAC), serving as lead for two of the School's signature programs, The Multicultural Leadership Institute (MALI) and Celebrate Mayfair, a creative placemaking initiative designed to bring social cohesion to East San Jose's Mayfair community using arts and cultural strategies.



Kimberly Coburn
Decatur, GA

Kimberly has spent the last handful of years immersing herself in Atlanta's burgeoning local food and sustainability movements, trying to find the niche best suited for her and where she could make the most lasting impact. Two years ago, she established The Homestead Atlanta for a pretty simple reason: she wanted access to hands-on learning in practical crafts and artisanal skills that she could easily integrate into my lifestyle. Turns out she wasn't the only one! The Homestead Atlanta has offered 100+ workshops on everything from metal and woodwork to fermentation, tiny homes to permaculture. She's excited to explore all the possibilities The Homestead Atlanta can offer individuals and the community as it grows. And to see how many more homesteading and sustainability experiments she can fit into her apartment!



April Counciller
Kodiak, AK

April, known as Isiik (Owl) is an Alutiiq tribal member from Kodiak Archipelago, Alaska. While not working in her garden, her work and advocacy span culture, language revitalization, and education. She has a B.A. from Brown University, a M.A. in Rural Development from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF), and an Interdisciplinary doctorate (Language Planning & Indigenous Knowledge Systems) from UAF. She serves on a number of Boards, including Koniag, a regional Native Corporation, and was Governor-appointed to a second term on the Alaska Native Language Preservation & Advisory Council where she is vice-Chair. Having developed a local Alaska Native Studies & Native Student Support program for the University of Alaska, Anchorage, April is now joining the Alutiiq Museum as Executive Director. Her project works to create dialogue around intergenerational trauma in the Kodiak community by creating a public memorial to the Russian-led Refuge Rock Massacre of 1784.



Justina Crawford
Boston, MA

Justina is Manager of Lectures, Courses and Concerts at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Previously she served as the Assistant Director of Education & Engagement at Victoria Theatre Association in Dayton, OH. In Dayton, she served the community by working as a middle school instrumental teacher, community artist and administrator for a youth arts development program, and program assistant in higher education for art education programs. Through the Creative Community Fellows program, she developed a mentorship program focused on holistic health through the arts to help local military families transition while Airmen are deployed. In her spare time, she loves playing flute and discovering new recipes to share with her family.



Sadiqua Crutcher
Seattle, WA

Sadiqua is the Founder and Artistic Director of Earth Pearl Collective (EPC), a producer of performances and organized events around the visibility of social injustices that affect queer black womyn and how to continue to build community through those obstacles. Through EPC she has directed an all womyn of color cast of “A Streetcar Named Desire,” to raise awareness of LGBTQ intimate partner violence in Chicago, IL, and curated a gallery show about body image called, “Body Embodied” at Core Gallery in Seattle, WA. Her Creative Community Fellowship project is the launch of “Sister Stories,” an artistic outlet for young black girls to learn how to tell their personal stories through dance, theatre, and poetry. There will be specialty workshops that will introduce the program participants to different cultures of storytelling like Japanese Butoh, West African Dance, and Indian Kathak. Young black womyn in America are challenged to combat all of the negative stereotypes that come with their birth identity, before they are given a chance to discover their own ideas of society and its norms.



Thupten Dakpa
Delhi, INDIA

Thupten has invested the last three years in creating and developing the framework of Tibetan Art Collective — an emerging peer-based global network of creative individuals of Tibetan origin. It includes visual artists, graphic designers, poets, writers and musicians and aims to foster creative growth, self-expression and introspection in the Tibetan Diaspora. Also, developing it as a socio-economic support system, liaison between first and second generation artists, organize and curate events and procured commission(s) for our artist-members. Acknowledging the drawbacks of a singular narrative, my work is driven by the need for making and embracing contemporary culture in the Tibetan diaspora and how the premise of thought process of Tibetans can be chronicled through the creative work produced in “exile.” During this fellowship, Thupten will be focusing on learning how to effectively grow and manage the Tibetan Art Collective while making and moving towards tangible goals.



Smita Dasgupta
Singapore, SINGAPORE

Smita was born and raised in India. Currently she lives and works in Singapore. Nothing gets her spirits soaring as illustrating does. Drawing started as a hobby as soon as she learned to hold a pencil. Even though, she studied science as a major, she never seized to illustrate. She could doodle tirelessly for hours. It was in 2008 that she decided to turn this passion into a profession. She published her first picture book with KATHA, an Indian publisher. There was no turning back afterwards. She had taken the plunge into an ocean where every wave is a new inspiration. Since then she illustrated for many cause-based projects, be it for Singapore International Foundation, BIBAK in Afghanistan, Educate Girls in India, or drawing graphic novels for underprivileged children in Asia. During this Fellowship she will be working on the project, “Fathers for Daughters”, which is closest to her heart. It is dedicated to fathers who defend the rights of their daughters.



Tanya Daud
Dubai, UAE

Aleph Collective, is an attempt at a world Tanya aspires to. A multi-disciplinary initiative, it is based on a collection of projects undertaken individually as well as with others, seeking to work on issues ranging from and across — but not limited to — the social to the political and literary to the performing arts. With a strong focus on South Asia & the Muslim world at large, the idea is to use an array of mediums and approach(es), be it as a journalist, an artist or via activism, to explore, investigate, initiate discourse, engage, challenge, create, educate and present amongst other things. One of Aleph Collective’s primary aims is to work in initiating a dialogue — a process of exploration, engagement and reflection — internally amongst people themselves and externally between that of differing cultures, faith and various practices, with all the nuances and complexities that define human beings. It is trying to present more nuanced narratives and more than one story of the “other.” I am trying to do this with “Zair, Zabar, Pesh” — an umbrella head, under which a variety of projects such as South Asian Sandoog, an audio-visual project based on stereotypes and another relating to Emirati & Expatriates is being worked on.



Nic de la Fuente
Phoenix, AZ

Nic seeks to develop a global reality where opportunities trump disparities. As a non-profit director, convener and teacher, Nicolas has never been one to shy away from difficult conversations about community voice and unbalanced power dynamics. For the past 8 years Nicolas has worked in three different countries which gave him a deep understanding of abject poverty and the trickle down effect of U.S. systems on global disparities. For that reason, Nicolas is excited to be working on the construction of a new food system in the desert southwest with a focus on local community, local soil and local business. The Spaces of Opportunity initiative seeks to develop a thriving community food hub in south Phoenix with the main goal of keeping the food in the immediate community and challenging the notion that good food grown in impoverished areas cannot be sold in impoverished areas.



Claro de los Reyes
Brooklyn, NY

Claro de los Reyes is a social practice theatre & film artist who creates work to further build community, encourage cross-cultural dialogue, and highlight & explore underrepresented histories. As an actor Claro has performed Off-Broadway with various NY theater companies and was seen most recently in Pan Asian Rep's 2016 production of No-No Boy. He is also a proud theatre-based educator serving organizations that include the Apollo Theater Education, CUNY Creative Arts Team, Two River Theater, and The Filipino School of NY & NJ. He is a graduate of Fordham Theatre Program, the Third World Newsreel Film Workshop, and he holds an MA in Applied Theatre from CUNY School of Professional Studies. In 2015 as a commissioned artist of the Laundromat Project's Create Change program Claro spearheaded the ongoing My Baryo, My Borough project, a community-centered oral history theatre project that mobilizes community members to collect, share, and celebrate the largely overlooked legacy of the Filipino/ Filipino American community of NYC.

As a member of the Asian Pacific Islander community Claro's current endeavor, Infinity & Fourth, is rooted in a urgent need to champion API histories and perspectives by using theatre as creative tool for education and social justice. Infinity & Fourth is a social practice theatre company that creates work towards cultural equity for and with communities of the Asian Pacific Islander diaspora. Through community-centered theatre productions, socially-engaged public programs, and a robust in-school Theatre-in-Education program, Infinity & Fourth offers accessible creative experiences to strengthen public understanding, empathy, and awareness of the Asian Pacific Islander diaspora in local and global contexts.



Julia Devine
Plattsburgh, NY

Julia promotes local arts, culture, and civic engagement in the historic town of Plattsburgh, NY, on Lake Champlain. She teaches in the Theatre and English departments at SUNY Plattsburgh. Julia works as a local nonprofit arts consultant for such organizations as Mountain Lake PBS and the Strand Center for the Arts. She also volunteers her talents as a performer and musician. Recently, she coordinated the upcoming installation of a mosaic mural, co-founded a downtown community center, and created a college and community speaker series. Julia received her M.F.A. in Acting from Harvard's Institute for Advanced Theatre Training and has over 15 years of experience as a cultural nonprofit professional. She has worked and performed in Philadelphia, New York, Washington DC, Boston and Los Angeles. Fun facts: She lived in Moscow for half a year; she plays the accordion and has four kids. Julia wants to create a series of living tableaux based on photos from Plattsburgh's heyday (1870s-1930s) that will build community and civic pride, and inspire a sense of renewal for the city.



Dawn DiPrince
Pueblo, CO

Dawn has an eclectic work/community background as: a non-profit administrator, writing teacher, author, scholar, activist, historian, and commissioner on my local urban renewal authority. Right now, she is the Director of El Pueblo History Museum in Pueblo, Colorado. The museum's mission is to nurture a sense of history and a sense of place that can build strong and authentic community connections. For this fellowship, Dawn expanded her neighborhood memory writing project, using personal writing to empower residents to preserve and protect their own neighborhoods. Her ultimate goal is to establish methods of empowerment that can transform her community.



Taneisha Duggan
Hartford, CT

Taneisha Duggan, is an actor and arts administrator. She began her acting training at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts in Connecticut, and continued on to SUNY- Purchase College in The School of Theater Arts and Film. After college, Taneisha worked as a Marketing Coordinator at American Girl Place. She returned to acting full time in 2011 appearing on regional stages in Connecticut and New York, including TheaterWorks Hartford, Long Wharf, LaMama, and HartBeat Ensemble. She is currently Producing Associate at TheaterWorks in Hartford, CT. She sits on the Exploratory Committee of TheaterWorks' expansion, where she advocates for community engagement and partnership with local business and artists.

During the Fellowship she will be actively working on the development of the TheaterWorks District, a collaborative project with the theater at its center. She believes that focused attention and effort from the non-profit sector, primarily arts organizations in a community's development is key to innovation and visionary thinking in urban planning.



Jordan Dyniewski
New York, NY

Jordan grew up in Texas (no, he has not owned a horse or worn spurs!) and resided in NYC since 2007. Though he moved to NYC with the ambition to perform on Broadway, the universe directed him down a different path, and he became an events designer and producer. He is deeply committed to the preservation and celebration of Mother Earth, and as a result, much of his work revolves around publicly accessible open spaces. Jordan believes that with increased understanding and awareness, social barriers are dissolved and we become more connected people. His project, Open Space Arts, focuses on using arts programming to cultivate communities and build cultural bridges, while stewarding our public space community assets. He is the 5th born of 7 sons with all "J" names (for real!), and he believes that dessert is THE essential food group.



Lori Erickson
Encino, CA

Lori Erickson serves as the Director of Casting at CBS Television Studios where she oversees the casting of television shows such as CRIMINAL MINDS, CRIMINAL MINDS: BEYOND BORDERS and CODE BLACK on CBS and INCORPORATED on Syfy, in addition to several pilots. She previously worked in the television packaging department at CAA and learned the casting ropes as an apprentice to the casting director at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, where she assisted on plays such as the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY.

Lori established a collaborative, all-female theater company called The LadyParts Collective with the mission to create parts for women by generating new works about issues that affect women within the Los Angeles community. She graduated from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri with a BFA in Theatre Arts. Lori volunteers with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Young Storytellers Foundation.



Hallie Ertman
Seattle, WA

Hallie works for the Madison House Autism Foundation (MHAF), focusing on issues that affect adults on the autism spectrum. She has a B.S. in psychology and a B.F.A. in digital media design, both of which she uses every day to help understand the needs of this population and design resources to meet them. Her two greatest areas of interest are the arts, and how they connect people of neurodiverse perspectives, and the educational and vocational needs of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD). Hallie's project is a vocational arts program at Madison Fields, MHAF's farm in the Montgomery County agricultural reserve. Participants will learn vocational skills and trades and earn meaningful income through their work. It will also benefit the community by creating new employment opportunities and connecting neighbors who might otherwise be strangers through work, art, and volunteerism.



Naomi Even-Aberle
Rapid City, SD

Black belt. Artist. Woman. Words not often seen in the same sentence, let alone in the same woman. Naomi Even-Aberle breaks boards with her body, trains with a sharp sword and advocates for youth education and community development through the martial arts.

As an active educator, Naomi has seen first hand the inequalities in her community, the education systems that impact her students, their families and community on a daily basis.

Naomi is on a mission; a mission to utilize her love of the martial arts to connect to her community.

Nimo H. Farah is an artist and activist based in Minneapolis who uses language and poetry to express the complexities that come with juggling multiple cultures as a refugee growing up in the Midwestern United States.

Her current undertaking is to develop her skills as an orator who blends Somali and English while helping native Minnesotans build a better understanding of Somali culture. Some of the most interesting aspects to this blending of languages are the messages that are lost in translation but that, through conversation, facilitate profound intercultural understanding and learning. Her poetry and short stories, written in both Somali and English have been published in Water-Stone Review, Saint Paul Almanac, and The Loft Inroads chapter book.

As a storyteller, Nimo has had the privilege to share her words at the Black Dog Café, The Loft Literary Center and Pillsbury House to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. She's a 2014 Loft Spoken Word Immersion Fellow, a 2014 Bush Fellow and a recipient of 2015 Intermedia Arts VERVE grant. She wants to explore the politics of Somali women's dress through photography, poetry and first-person narratives. She's half butterfly and half cat.



Nimo Farah
Minneapolis, MN



**Kristin
Fleischmann Brewer**
St. Louis, MO

Kristin is the Manager of Programs at Pulitzer Arts Foundation, where she has worked since 2011. Over the past 3 years she has mounted over 100 programs; founded a grants program that awarded \$60,000 to local and national artists to implement community projects; and built a dynamic network of thinkers in fields from sustainability, entrepreneurship, and community activism. Kristin is currently developing a project with Portland-based social practice artist, Jen Delos Reyes. The collaboration will draw attention to the power of radical optimism in shaping community in the post-Ferguson climate. She is interested in an art institution's role in being a supportive place for provocative ideas, art's impact on the health and success of a community, and addressing systems of inequality specifically related to class and privilege. The project, Radical Optimism in St. Louis, will be workshopped with the Creative Community Fellows. Kristin is also a practicing artist, and co-founder of Enamel Art Space in St. Louis, MO. In addition to making art her life, she, with her husband, is the co-owner of the St. Louis-based tofu company, MOFU, is a mother, lover of cats, and enjoys yoga and running.

Teré Fowler-Chapman is a gender fluid artist, poet and high school educator whose breadth of performances, projects, and publications include TEDxStarrPassWomen, 2015 Black Life Matters Conference, New York's What's Your Issue Project, Poetry Out Loud, Take Back the Night, Literary Orphans Magazine, Green Linden Press and the internationally acclaimed book: A Beautiful Body.

Words on the Avenue is her brainchild. An open mic dedicated to creating a space where all writing forms can co-exist. The organization was founded in 2012, and has recently gained national attention in the Huffington Post. During the Creative Community Fellows program she will be working on solidifying Words on the Avenue as an official organization, and expanding its vision through diverse projects.

Teré is currently seeking a business degree. When she isn't gracing the stage, planning her next project, or engaging classrooms she is spending time with her loving partner and two dogs.



**Teré
Fowler-Chapman**
Tucson, AZ



Hannah Fox
Derbyshire, UK

As part of the leadership team for Derby Museums Trust, Hannah is project manager for the redevelopment of the Silk Mill in Derby – regarded as the site of the world’s first factory. Since 2012 She has led the “Re:Make the Museum” programme; a co-production approach where our communities (including audiences and partners) have been citizen curators & makers – working to plan, design and make all the elements for the space in-house. Her challenge is to take this ethos and apply it to the major development project; maintaining both integrity to the approach that has given it its stand-out nature, but also deliverability against the resources and stakeholder expectations. In the past, Hannah has worked on branding, design, advertising, publishing and education projects. She is an experienced graphic designer and have also had two solo photography residencies. Married to Ian, Hannah has daughters Orla and Isobel and is a lucky step-mum to Cara and Liam. She tries to live with an attitude of “anything is possible.” She originally wanted to be a marine biologist.



Meghan Frank
Denver, CO

Meghan is a theatre maker, educator, and arts-in-community practitioner based in her hometown of Denver, Colorado. She has worked globally (Afghanistan, India, Azerbaijan, Egypt and the Balkans). Meghan holds an MFA in Ensemble Based Physical Theatre from Dell’Arte International (2012) and a BA in Theatre for Social Change from UMASS Amherst (2003). Currently, Meghan is co-founding Theatre Artibus in Denver, a group that will focus on original performance and community collaboration. Meghan is an ensemble member of Bond Street Theatre (working in international communities affected by war), adjunct faculty at Community College of Aurora, and a teaching artist with various organizations including Mirror Image Arts, a theatre-based empathy building program for Denver youth. Meghan was a faculty member at Dell’Arte from 2012/14, serving as Community Programs Manager for Dell’Arte’s 2013/14 ArtPlace America grant. She creates original theatre through collaboration, including IN-Tents, which has been performed in India, the US National parks, Colorado, and in Egypt, supported by the US Embassy.



Jill Freeman
Fairport, NY

Jill is a skilled strategist, project designer, and facilitator to nonprofits and foundations who has been driving social impact for 20 years. Fascinated with creative placemaking, she seeks to build adventure playgrounds/discovery zones for kids with nature-deficit disorder. Too many children don't get opportunities to be "lost in play" and pursue their imaginations outside. Jill plans to change that. Before becoming a consultant working with clients like the NPCA and Council on Foundations, Jill was the Vice President of the Global Philanthropy Forum, where she learned about impact and effective giving strategies. Prior to that, Jill worked at the Harwood Institute, where she learned the power of civic engagement and real community collaboration. After growing up in the Bay Area and then Bologna, Italy and Washington, D.C., Jill now resides in Rochester, New York- a beautiful but struggling post-industrial city with great people and great potential.



Katelyn Freil
Akron, OH

Katelyn Freil is the communications coordinator for the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition, a non-profit in Akron dedicated to developing the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area and Towpath Trail. In addition to her communications duties, she has had the privilege of working on many projects including event planning, trail development, and community engagement projects like iTowpath and Reimagining the Civic Commons.

As part of Creative Community Fellows, Katelyn hopes to continue developing ideas for Reimagining the Civic Commons, a project to enhance civic assets as a gathering place for people of all different backgrounds. The Akron project focuses on connecting three very different assets, all linked by the common Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail.

Katelyn graduated from The University of Akron in 2015 with degrees in public relations and mass media, a minor in environmental ethics, and an excitement to promote positive change.



Jerrell Gibbs
Baltimore, MD

Jerrell Gibbs, is a multifaceted visual artist, lecturer and educator. His most notable paintings incorporate cartoon imagery; mainly “Franklin” from Charles Schulz’s “Peanuts” Gang. In a time of great turmoil, Gibbs uses Franklin as a tool to paint the picture of the American black male experience of 2015-2016.

Gibbs’s paintings are featured in multiple galleries, coffee shops, book stores, and numerous high-end private collectors homes in various cities and countries. Two of his most notable exhibits took place at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum in downtown Baltimore and the Harlem Fine Arts Show in New York.

Gibbs is renowned for his social commentary on issues such as male identity, masculinity, politics, stereotypes and social issues. His passion for raising awareness on social issues that affect the community is transparent through all of his artwork. His use of dialect integrated with symbolic elements from many different cultures is a way to encourage diversity while building social capital. Jerrell likes to leave messages for deeper consideration.



Mina Girgis
San Francisco, CA

Mina is an ethnomusicologist and entrepreneur who specializes in curating and producing innovative musical collaboration across diverse styles. Relying on his background in hospitality, Mina explores new ways to design environments conducive to learning, making, and experiencing music. In 2009, he founded Zambaleta, a nonprofit community World Music school based in San Francisco. In 2011, Mina created the Nile Project — an initiative to inspire, educate and empower university students to work together to foster the sustainability of the Nile ecosystem.



Laura Gisler
Saint Paul, MN

Laura Gisler is a multidisciplinary human and artist who brings her spirited creativity and empathy to all of her work. In her day job as an intellectual property attorney, she has honed her ability to zealously advocate for her clients, a skill that proves helpful in her pro bono asylum work.

A lifelong artist, she has explored countless mediums and landed most consistently within the world of visual arts. A vegan, world adventurer, and consistent disruptor, she is forever seeking out ways to engage artists and her community in the liberating, healing work of creative expression as a means of world-changing advocacy.

At any given time you can find a part of her spirit begging to be out in the uninhibited 'natural' world.



Jeremie Gluckman
San Francisco, CA

Jeremie is an emerging arts leader working at the intersection of creative place-making, cultural diplomacy, and social entrepreneurship. He is a Peace Corps volunteer in Guiyang, China looking to create new spaces for open expression at The Guizhou University of Finance and Economics (GUFE). He is building a case for arts and cultural based development in the Peace Corps, which ranges from craft based livelihood to new arts programs as well as cultural tourism. Prior to service, Jeremie gained experience in non-profit arts management, research and development in Washington, DC and New York City. Jeremie is a dancer and choreographer but also has a background in documentary filmmaking and media studies. As part of the Creative Community Fellows program (CCF), Jeremie will convene Create Huaxi, a platform that brings together diverse stakeholder in crafting high-impact low infrastructure (HI-LI) cultural programs.



Angie Goerner
Washington, DC

Angie is the Program and Development Director of Hamiltonian Artists, a competitive two-year professional development fellowship program for emerging visual artists in Washington, DC. Originally from Düsseldorf, Germany, she received her master's in Arts Management from American University. She has served on the steering committee of Emerging Arts Leaders DC and is a 2012 StartingBloc Fellow. Previously, Angie organized a monthly summer concert series with friends out of her back yard. Her current project is titled (re)activate, a series of curated outdoor art events staged in underutilized private and idle public spaces. Featuring the work of local artists, each project identifies underutilized space resources via site-specific video projections, pop-up concerts and art performances that invite audiences to (re)consider the dynamics of space, how it related to their personal experience, our collective histories and the future identity of our city.



Sarah Gonzales
Tucson, AZ

Sarah serves as a community organizer and artist in Tucson, AZ and as a social justice education consultant nationally via her company, TruthSarita, LLC. Sarah is also the Codirector/Co-Founder of Spoken Futures, Inc home to programs including Tucson Youth Poetry Slam and Liberation Lyrics which creates space for youth to process and address issues such as the school to prison pipeline, LGBTQ rights and migrant justice through spoken word poetry. In addition to facilitation, training and youth organizing work, Sarah is an extensive haiku writer, fierce dance floor occupier and a trickster performance artist whose work landed her in 6th place in the Arizona US Presidential Primaries in 2012. Sarah has previously worked at Oklahoma State University, University of Arizona and Duke University. She currently serves as the Program Coordinator for the UA Cultural Centers. Sarah will be working on a Liberation Lyrics project to use poetry as a means of supporting youth poets to learn and teach the community's cultural knowledge as a response to the banning of ethnic studies via HB2281.



Philip Graulty
Los Angeles, CA

Philip is the Director and Co-Founder of People's Pop-Up. As a passionate community arts organizer who lives to build partnerships and facilitate collaboration, Philip created People's Pop-Up to connect teaching artisans with local businesses and bring DIY and craft classes to the masses. While his background stems from the performing arts as a guitarist, educator and program manager, Philip aspires to play a more integral role in the intersection of arts and community across all disciplines. In addition to People's Pop-Up, Philip works for the City of Santa Monica's Cultural Affairs Division as the Associate Director of the Miles Playhouse. Prior to this, he served as Program Director for the UCLA Center for Intercultural Performance and World Festival of Sacred Music; Road Manager for Arts Midwest's World Fest; and Co-Founder and Co-Director of chamber group Los Angeles Electric 8. Philip received a Master of Music from UCLA and a Bachelor of Arts from Cal Poly Pomona. His inner coffee nerd dreams of competing at the World Barista Championship someday.



Sara Greer
Portland, OR

Sara is a painter, illustrator & photographer. She volunteers, creating temporary spaces for arts, services & housing in rural, harsh environments. She wants to create & facilitate excellent Public Art. The project can grow in any abandoned/empty lot anywhere. Everybody Park Project is an arts-eco-business park & acts as a town square. EPP is scalable, includes 5 led—lit sculptures, rooftop-community gardens. EPP includes small shops for micro-businesses, a curated mural space & a live, publicly curated space for impromptu art. The park exists to engage: benches facing art and sidewalks, device charging, art making/viewing to shared gardening opportunities & the daily presence of business owners, art lovers, picnickers, children & neighbors. Sara's role in Everybody Park Project would be founder, artist, co-curator, grant writer. This is not a project for one person. EPP seeks experts in urban planning, micro-business, art installation, education, park & play theory, environmental psychology, construction, permaculture.



Carly Griffith
Charlottesville, VA

Carly is a cultural heritage professional who is passionate about the power of arts and culture to sustain vibrant communities built around a shared sense of place. She holds an M.A. in Public Humanities from Brown University and has professional experience in cultural policy, museums, and arts education. In her current role as Administrative Director for the Piedmont Council for the Arts she helped to facilitate the first-ever cultural plan for the Charlottesville area, which gave her a broad overview of the particular strengths and needs of the local arts community. She now is one of the project managers for "Play the City," an NEA funded initiative that works with residents in a blighted area of the city to collectively develop a site-specific narrative of place through arts-driven workshops. Recently admitted to the Architectural History M.A. program at the UVa School of Architecture, she is well positioned to serve as a bridge between university and community resources for the Play the City initiative and engage more deeply with the framework of cultural landscape as a way to see, embody, and effectively intervene in contested terrains.



Alma Guzman
Huntington Beach, CA

Alma is a native Angeleno and has worked as an arts administrator in Los Angeles for the past seven years. Her commitment and passion for the arts continually inspires her to promote creativity as a means to transform people's lives. Her work has consisted of providing artists and arts organizations with the resources to spark dialogue about arts and culture, and create connections amongst the diverse communities in Los Angeles. As a Creative Community Fellow, Alma will be working on a performing arts touring project that will hit the streets of Southeast LA to begin mobilizing a seemingly dormant arts scene. The goal of this project is to help awaken the creativity hiding in the crevices of Southeast LA communities and introduce programming that will foster civic pride and provide a platform for open dialogue.



Abdul Karim Hakib
Accra, GHANA

Abdul Karim is a theatre for development practitioner, who specializes in the use of the creative arts for development. He has been engaged in a number of works for and with organizations like Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana, Theatre for a Change, Africa Adaptation Program on Climate change, United Nation Organization and UNESCO. He has also done mainstream theatre and dance productions in Ghana. Gender and development in the lens of he creative arts and culture for development is the project i will be working on. During this fellowship, i will be exploring ways of using culture for development by trying to curb gender based violence. Using the peoples culture as the basis of their development is what i believe will lead to a holistic human and community development. It is this path that i seek to traverse during the fellowship. I believe all arts work together and so working with an integrated approach will lead to us achieving more as compared to using a single approach to solving problem.



Rachel Hamilton
Nashville, TN

Rachel is a theatre educator and arts access advocate who enjoys creating performing arts opportunities in and with communities. She has developed drama programs with young people in schools, museums, community centers and healthcare settings. In this current project, she seeks to build community-based performing arts programming for the diverse population of young people and their families in her own neighborhood of East Nashville. The arts programming will bring together youth from the varied cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds in the area, something they lack in their educational experience where over 40% of students leave the area to go to school. The space will be a launch pad for social change within the community, giving families the tools to help transform failing local schools and make up the diversity deficit. Her other skills include, but are not limited to, yoga, rock climbing, navigation and being easily hypnotized.



Lisa Harper Chang
St. Louis, MO

Lisa is currently the Education Programs Manager at the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis (RAC) and co-directs the Community Arts Training (CAT) Institute and affiliated programs. In her current position, she is responsible for the daily operations of the CAT Institute and its affiliated programs, which include place-based, neighborhood-based trainings and workshops that support cross-sector collaboration, e.g. data and the arts. Her project, Staging, unites social work, performing arts, and visual arts to not only build capacity within program participants, all of whom were either in recovery from substance addiction, former prisoners, or homeless, but to also build bridges between the participants and the general public. Her goal is for people who have experienced transition to be better able to integrate into communities while building healthier social supports through creative, constructive leisure and work activities.



Danny Harris
San Jose, CA

Danny is the Program Director, San Jose for the Knight Foundation. Prior to joining Knight, he was a principal of StorySocial, a creative design studio in Washington, D.C. In that role, he helped businesses, cities, foundations and brands more effectively collect and share their stories online and in person to build stronger communities. He is also co-founder of Feastly, a venture capital-backed online marketplace that allows cooks to turn their homes into restaurants and promotes community connections at the dinner table. Previously, he was the chief storytelling officer for People's District, an online oral history project launched in Washington, D.C., that collected and shared a profile of one city resident a day. His work has been featured in, among others, *Fast Company*, *The New York Times*, NPR, *TIME*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *Wired*. *The Washington Post* called him a “modern-day Studs Terkel.” He has delivered presentations around the world and is a regular speaker on topics such as storytelling, community building and creative placemaking. He is an award-winning DJ and photographer.



Megan Hobza
Whittier, CA

Megan founded and directs the Whittier Time Bank, which facilitates skill-sharing and skill-building to promote reciprocity and community self-reliance. She is a regional director for Catalyst Network of Communities, providing oversight for the time bank as well as the Make Space: Free Store & Artisan Work Lab project. This placemaking project is the proposed subject of her work under the Creative Community Fellowship. She is a board member of The Whole Place at First Christian Church and the Whittier Area Environmental Coalition. As editor of the weekly Sustainable Whittier community events newsletter, she has created access to local news for over 800 subscribers. Her background in community change-making includes founding roles in the Altadena Urban Farmers Market, Strub Avenue Urban Farm, and the Urban Dinner Socials pop-up locavore vegan gastropub. Hobza's professional background is in grants consulting. She has a B.A. in English and a Masters in Business Administration.



Torres Hodges
Rochester, MN

Torres (aka Earth) Hodges is a musician who has his B.A in Radio, Television, and Film Production from Howard University. His artistic journey has granted him various opportunities to uplift his community through art. With over 20 years of performance experience, Torres most recently was featured as a soloist in the Rochester Minnesota Eagles Cancer Telethon - an annual event that raises money for cancer research. Torres also serves as the director of Armor of God - a community choir that sings at events throughout southeastern Minnesota.

He wants to show the world that music is much more than entertainment. Torres has a passion for utilizing music as a means to inform, inspire, and unify communities. "Statecraft"- Torres' proposed work - seeks to do just that. "Statecraft" will take music to the next level by collaborating with one local artist or group from each state, producing a 50-track album highlighting issues affecting our nation and its communities. By doing so, Torres and his team aim to not only participate in and provide momentum for these changes, but also showcase the profound power of music as a catalyst for social change.



Mary Hoffman
Alamosa, CO

Mary serves as Adams State University's Exec. Director of Community Partnerships. Along with overseeing the University's community organizing and business support programs, she builds partnerships and collaborations between Adams State and the community it serves. Mary is committed to increasing the quality of life for all San Luis Valley, Colorado residents. She believes this can be done through raising the capacity of economic development organizations throughout the Valley. Mary is a founding member the SoCo Film Commission, Sustainable Environmental Economic Development Park, International and Conejos County Environment and Economy Progressing Together. All three of these organizations serve to bring green job growth to Southern Colorado in various ways.



Chris Horne
Akron, OH

Chris Horne is the publisher of The Devil Strip, a nakedly pro-Akron arts and culture magazine that practices narrative placemaking to help foster connections around the people who make the area unique.

A native of Macon, Georgia, he and his family moved to Ohio in July 2013 after his wife was hired as an English professor at the University of Akron. For a year, he woke up at 2:30 am to work at a Cleveland TV station, posting stories online intended to poke early morning viewers in their lizard brain using fear or anger, and sometimes both. Before that, Chris was a news manager at a different TV station, a daily paper beat reporter and an alt-weekly editor. He's also sold pest control, delivered pizzas and been a youth minister. But it's the media experience that has convinced him to soon relinquish ownership of The Devil Strip and turn it into a community-owned journalism co-op.



Kate Jopson
Los Angeles, CA

Kate grew up in a town of 700 people in Northern California. She went on to study Anthropology, Arabic, and Theater at UC Berkeley, travel to over 20 countries, and receive a M.F.A in Theater Directing from UC San Diego. In addition to theater, Kate plays music, dances, and makes visual art (including a metal giraffe named Eddie). Kate's hometown in Siskiyou County is in the middle of a divisive debate about water usage, environmental regulation, and the sustainability of agriculture. Siskiyou County residents feel that their way of life is threatened by California policy makers, and policy makers feel that Siskiyou County is standing in the way of progress. Kate plans to use a production of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* (a play about a family losing their land because they ignored the realities of the world) as a springboard for community-action planning about the future of Siskiyou County. She then plans to tour the production to California cities to raise awareness of struggles facing her hometown.

Dulce Juarez, M.Ed, has lived in Arizona for 25 years. She self-identifies as a DREAMer. Her activist journey began at fourteen years old while advocating for the passage of the Dream-Act. She has been a human & migrant rights activist for 15 years. She was impacted by anti-immigrant laws: Prop 300 and SB 1070.

While undocumented, Juarez completed a Bachelor's in Communications Family & Human Development and Masters in Higher Education at Arizona State University.

Now a U.S. citizen, she works at the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona, as the Outreach & Advocacy Coordinator, where she documented civil rights abuses stemming from SB 1070, the "show me your papers" law.

Currently, she works within the community on cross-movement issues from, Police Accountability, Women's Reproductive, LGBTQ and Immigrants' Rights. She is passionate about street theater performance and using holistic ancestral healing practices to create spaces for community health justice and wellness.



Dulce Juarez
Phoenix, AZ



Stephanie Kent
New York City, NY

Steph Kent is a multimedia producer and writer whose work has appeared in Macworld Magazine, GamePro, Reading Rainbow's blog and Peter Gabriel's site for social change, The Toolbox. She recently launched The Wall Street Journal's first mobile-first news app and co-founded the new literary website Call Me Ishmael where she curates anonymous stories about books and heads up all things editorial.

During her time on staff at TED she built community programs for TEDActive and created brand engagement strategies for TED partners including TOMS, Theory and The Robin Hood Foundation.

Stephanie holds a BA in Playwriting and Literature from Emerson College and is an amateur boxer.



Hamida Khatri
Baltimore, MD

Hamida Khatri is an artist, writer, curator, arts educator, and a community activist, born and raised in Karachi, Pakistan, and living and working in Baltimore, U.S. She works in a variety of mediums, from figurative drawings, to photography, to sculptural puppets, to animation. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Community Arts and a Certificate in Teaching from the Maryland Institute College of Art (U.S.), Certificate in Humanistic Counselling from Counselling & Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body (U.K.), a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture and Photography from the Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture (Pakistan), and a Bachelor and Master of Business Administration in Marketing from the Institute of Business Management (Pakistan).

She is the Founder and Director of Creative Therapy Platform — A Voluntary Travel-Community Project focused on crafting healing spaces in underrepresented areas. Taking inspiration from Shaun McNiff's (Professor and Dean at Lesley University, U.S.) description of art as medicine for the soul, her surrealist approach to gender issues negotiates the psychology of emotions. Through these voluntary projects, she helps transform 'space' into healthy communal place where meditative artmaking is practiced.

Her recent success lies in the initiation of a social justice community-based venture, [i am] Project KALI – Celebration of Womanhood, in Baltimore, MD, where she has created a safe space for women with a history of trauma and abuse by introducing art activities, like puppet and quilt making. The project secured grants by The Pollination Project, France-Merrick Opportunity Fund, and Launch Artists in Baltimore Award. By establishing linking platforms, she has been able to curate numerous shows where community participants' artworks have been displayed.



Laurelin Kruse
Los Angeles, CA

Laurelin is an artist and musician currently based in Los Angeles and originally from southern Colorado. She has traversed the country as a singer and songwriter and as a performer in an improv comedy troupe. In 2013 Laurelin served as the Director of the Museum of Nowhere, a space that combines the work of local and internationally recognized artists in rural Colorado. During her time at NOWHERE she curated a series of house concerts to bring live music to rural towns. Through Creative Community Fellows she developed the Mobile Museum of American Artifacts, a traveling museum of everyday objects and their stories. The project captures the people, places, and everyday life of communities around the country by inviting people to share the history of objects that are meaningful to them.



Cornetta Lane
Detroit, MI

Cornetta Lane is a storyteller. She courageously told her first story live on stage at the Secret Society of Twisted Storytellers. Cornetta shared an experience about grappling with the unfortunate passing of her father and realized that crafting her story facilitated her grieving and healing process.

Since then, she has been working to help communities craft and tell their own stories through her storytelling initiative.



Lauren Latessa
Ellicott City, MD

Lauren is a cellist who has dedicated her career to exploring the ways music can infuse and transform communities. Currently she is the Musician in Residence for Charles E. Smith Life Communities (CESLC) where she runs music programming for Independent, Assisted and Memory Care buildings in Rockville MD. Additionally she serves as a community musician for the Candlelight Concert Society in Columbia MD. Lauren has collaborated with diverse artists such as the Mir—Quartet, the Kronos Quartet and Lynn Harrell. The 2014-2015 season included premieres of Robert A. Baker's and wondrous strange snow and Jacob Polasky's Syzygy. Lauren is a 2014 graduate of Community MusicWorks' (CMW) prestigious fellowship program. CMW is a professional chamber ensemble in residence in a low income neighborhood of Providence RI. Through music education and performance CMW musicians and fellows spark and facilitates community growth. Prior to her CMW fellowship, Lauren earned a BM from the Peabody Conservatory and MM from Northwestern University.



Perryne Lee Poy Lokhandwala
Brooklyn, NY

Perryne is a self-proclaimed play planner (a mashup of urban planning and play making), who is passionate about the arts and its ability to create vibrant public spaces. Her work is grounded in play and fueled by creativity and collaboration. Its moniker is that it often, "happens in places you least expect it and is made with people almost never asked to do it." Projects include the installation of a pedal-powered composter in a neighborhood community garden, the production of a modular water-conveying play set for 2nd grade students and a number of pop-up playshops built around the themes of food literacy, diversity and inclusion. Her next undertaking involves launching the Play(ce)Maker project: an online platform that brings community groups and artists together to revolutionize the way we play in public spaces. She loves big laughs and big ideas. She's adventurous, artistic and everything in between.



Dan Leng
Seattle, WA

Dan is a software developer and photographer from Seattle, Washington. After graduating with a degree in Art History and Computer Science from Duke University, Dan worked for 13 years in the tech industry, the last 10 at Amazon.com. Although he learned the intricacies of building world-class software and managing high performing teams, he was unfulfilled. Dan left his position in 2013 to focus on his core passions. Dan believes in the importance of visual art as communication; in art's ability to capture ideas that cannot be expressed in words. He asked himself why society at large is unprepared to appreciate these ideas, how artists could be more effective in expressing ideas, and ultimately how visual art might realize its full potential as communication. In 2014, Dan founded an online community of artists and art enthusiasts to address these questions. The project, Point and Line, aims to further visual literacy through technology and social interaction. He is looking to expand and explore new possibilities for Point and Line through this fellowship.

Al is an award-winning playwright/performance poet/actor/public radio host/producer. He is working on a play about mass incarnation, the criminal justice system, and how law and order is maintained in America through the lens of one city and it's lead prosecutor. Al loves comic books, roller coasters, and Doctor Who.



Al Letson
Jacksonville, FL



Valerie Liais
Marrakesh, MOROCCO

Valerie is a French cultural manager based in Morocco and the co-founder of Studio IWA, a studio specialized in cultural and creative sector, designed as a cultural incubator for local emerging talents and projects. She is also the co-founder of The SOUK, an association meant to promote local designers through facilities and pop up markets. During her Fellowship, she worked on a mobile "art truck" to provide rural communities neighboring Marrakesh city with access to culture and artistic contents and activities.



Dessa Lohrey
Atlanta, GA

Dessa is an architect, designer and photographer obsessed with diaries. She grew up in Knoxville, TN and studied architecture at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, GA. Atlanta has been her adopted home ever since. Dessa has long had an interest in diaries, and the safe space they provide for us to share our most unfiltered thoughts. Two years ago, she started an experiment to find out what people would share if they found a diary tied to a bench. That experiment is called Bench Diary, a now global public storytelling project. Each diary is tied to a bench for one day and invites those who happen upon it to write an anonymous entry. Dessa has collaborators in about 20 cities around the world, and with their help has collected over 700 entries from over 100 benches in 9 countries. Dessa hopes to further grow Bench Diary as a way to strengthen communities on a small scale in the public places where diaries reside, as well as on a large scale across continents and cultures.



Mei Lum
New York, NY

Mei Lum is the 5th generation owner-in-training of her family's porcelain shop, Wing on Wo & Co (W.O.W) and founder and director of W.O.W's community initiative, The W.O.W Project.

Inspired by her family's pivotal moment in deciding whether or not to fold their 92-year-old porcelain ware small business, Mei founded The W.O.W Project to engage community members in conversation and innovative idea generation about the future of their neighborhood.



Alex Macharia
Nairobi, KENYA

Alex is a creative writer, actor and comedian. He has directed theatre plays, animations, radio and TV productions among other creative products in Nairobi Kenya. His work constantly explores how to use drama and creative/humorous ways of making sure all Kenyans get to learn the much needed information about traffic rules so as to reduce road carnage. Alex is a movie fanatic and loves traveling in his beautiful country of Kenya.



Hayk Makhmuryan
Los Angeles, CA

Hayk Makhmuryan has worked in LA's Skid Row neighborhood since 2008 and advocates for strengthening communities through arts. He expanded The People Concern's Lamp Arts Program from an internal visual arts studio to a multi-discipline creative platform open to all community residents, rooted in the perspective that equitable access to arts, cultural, and social spaces is a fundamental human right. Hayk is interested in how artists and arts spaces can align with grassroots community organizing. He is part of the Skid Row Design Collective, the campaign for a Skid Row Neighborhood Council, tenants' rights organizing, and other community and resident centered initiatives. He holds a BA in Illustration from Art Center College of Design.



Sifiso Maposa
Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA

Sifiso's background is in Communication and International Relations. She is a 2013 Hesselbein Fellow in Leadership and Civic Engagement (USA) and an alumna of the International Youth Leadership Network (Czech Republic). Her love for the creative industries was inspired by her passion for the role of arts and culture in socio-economic development in Africa. Her project is called Culture Axis Africa. It is a digital platform that connects the creative industries of Africa to each other and to global networks. She is a student at the University of London, working toward a Masters in Global Creative and Cultural Industries. She reads and writes a lot and cannot function without a cup of green tea every morning.



Kevin Marchman
Denver, CO

A native son of Park Hill, Denver, Colorado, Kevin is a co-founder and producer of the Black Actors Guild. As a classically trained stage actor, he has thoroughly enjoyed the many different hats he has worn with his education and production company. Some of his recent roles have been:

- Teaching Artist (Shakespeare, especially)
- Artist Manager (singer/songwriter, Kayla Marque)
- Certified HIV/HCP tester and outreach
- Poetry Out Loud judge for Colorado state semi-finals

Denver is a rapidly growing city for millennials with a strong focus on the arts. Over the past decade Kevin has been able to experience growth, gentrification and reinvention for a variety of ways. Through the fellowship he wishes to expand the work he has done as a teaching artist, by connecting the many artists flocking to the city with the schools and young people they are sharing neighborhoods with.

The only way to make a boom-town sustainable is to build strong connections; so that the creative energy of one generation is fostered and innovated within the next.



Erik Martinez Resly
Washington, DC

Rev. Erik Martinez Resly is an artist, community organizer, and ordained Unitarian Universalist minister living in Washington, DC. Having grown up in Frankfurt, Germany, he came to the United States to study international relations and comparative literature at Brown University. He then went on to pursue graduate study in religious pluralism as a Presidential Scholar at Harvard Divinity School. After graduation, he began organizing The Sanctuaries, one of the first interfaith arts communities in the country. As a Fellow, he intends to build on the initial success of The Sanctuaries by partnering with local justice organizations to design a scale-able training program that would equip leaders of diverse racial and religious backgrounds to harness the power of spirituality and the creative arts to promote social change. Rev. Erik also enjoys screenprinting, photography, and breaking it down on the dance floor.



Nikiko Masumoto
Del Ray, CA

Nikiko is an organic farmer from rural California and an artist. Her creative work has evolved from a more conventional practice of performance towards genre-mixing civic-focused explorations. After graduate school, she started self-producing and performing a one-woman show about Japanese American experiences of racism and redress. She also coordinated a public storytelling project about hunger. She created & lead an art-guided bus “tour” of our region which included 6 local artists and site-specific creative engagements along the main artery of our Valley: Highway 99. Most recently, Nikiko participated in a pilot cohort called the Catalyst Initiative through the Center for Performance and Civic Practice under Michael Rohd’s mentorship. She continues to make connections between agriculture and creative process, this time focusing on the California drought and creative methods of opening community conversations, possibly generating solutions, emotional resiliency, and visions of sustainable futures.



Jaimie McGirt
Todd, NC

Jaimie McGirt is a community organizer and programs coordinator for Blackburn Community Outreach in Todd, NC—a rural, unincorporated community nestled in the Appalachian Mountains. Perceiving problems in Todd, but understanding the mistakes of problem-oriented programs, Jaimie, BCO staff, and several local residents crafted the Todd Listening Project, aiming to bring people together, encourage collaboration, and solve community problems by fostering a new ethic and practice of listening.

One year in, and over 100 “listening” interviews later, Jaimie is still conducting interviews, interpreting data, and is currently working with community residents to establish a multipurpose venue that uses residents’ assets to address community concerns raised during the listening project.

A closet-artist living in a garage apartment with her husband and dog, Jaimie has a hard time finding time to paint and draw, but finds a creative outlet through her work as a “community listener.” The NASCCF Fellowship has affirmed her work and helped her see the Todd Listening Project as an integral piece of the Arts and Culture puzzle, something she hadn’t considered before.



Mario Mesquita
Los Angeles, CA

Mario is an artist, educator, and advocate graduating with an MFA in Public Practice. He seeks ways in which art can be used as an agent of social change and education. His past education and professional experiences have influenced the way he works and his practice as an artist; taking forms of curating, collecting, creating spaces of interaction, making images, research, and knowledge sharing. Mario's work explores social constructs of relationships and borders between personal, community, and perceived space and the representation of both. Trained as a graphic designer, he is interested in semiotics; what and how messages are, and can be, conveyed through imagery, as well as how stories are shared through moments of connection. The current project he is developing is a framework for a collaborative neighborhood exploration of the archive as a creative alternative to erasure from gentrification, beginning first in the neighborhood of Lincoln Heights.



Charlie Michaels
Ann Arbor, MI

Charlie is a studio and community artist living in Southeast Michigan. His work focuses broadly on relationships between people, nature, and urban environments through exhibitions, installations, works on paper, and public projects engaging youth and communities from Detroit to West Africa. Charlie currently works at the University of Michigan where he designs courses that bring students into Detroit schools to collaborate on art & design projects with youth and into Correctional Facilities to facilitate art & creative writing workshops with incarcerated adults and teens. For the past three years, he has been a curator on the Prison Creative Arts Project's Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners, one of the largest exhibitions of art by incarcerated individuals in the world. As a Creative Community Fellow, he seeks to bring together voices from the various populations and communities he works with into a series of curated thematic zines and mini-publications of visual art and creative writing. Featuring the work of professional artists alongside those who operate outside the mainstream art world, youth, students, and incarcerated individuals, these publications would offer various perspectives on topics that reach across our cultural divides to reveal new synergies and important complexities.



Allentza Michel
Boston, MA

Allentza Michel is an artist, urban planner and civic designer with a background in community organizing and youth development. She brings 15 years of diverse experience across community & economic development, education, food security, public health and transportation. Allentza is passionate about social justice and brings that passion to her work. Her goal is to develop practices and design concepts that translate into equitable development and innovation, solution-based and long-term placemaking, just economic growth strategies and inclusive public participation practices that lead to better policy outcomes and quality of life.

Allentza's work has been recognized by the Cambridge City Council and the Princeton Prize in Race Relations. She founded and co-founded nonprofit-organizations and served on many boards of community-based organizations, civic groups and coalitions. In 2013, she was selected as co-chair to the City of Boston's first Participatory Budgeting project, representing The City School.

Her artistic mediums range from prose, painting, poetry and photography. She also has contributed to a number of public art and digital media projects.



Gregory Milo
Akron, OH

Greg Milo taught high school social studies for 13 years, creating experiential learning opportunities locally and abroad for students, as well as new relevant and engaging courses, before taking his creative talents to the Knight Foundation, where he organizes and facilitates community events that bring people from different backgrounds together to learn about their town and each other.

Regarding this Fellowship, Milo ventures into the 20+ neighborhoods of Akron, gathering storytellers to participate in Common Threads Akron, where locals are invited to hear from and speak with experts in a particular field. Each monthly event takes place in a different Akron venue, be it a theatre or a bowling alley, and each event follows a different theme.



Erik Moe
Washington, DC

Erik runs a freelance practice focused on strengthening the online outreach efforts of social impact leaders, culture-makers and nonprofits. For much of the past 5 years, he has led and designed online economic justice campaigns at the Washington headquarters of a national labor union. Before coming to DC advocacy work, Erik sought out involvement with community-based arts projects in Philadelphia and his native Minneapolis. His own creative works in the past have focused on themes of people and place in forms such as: 'zines, radio broadcasts, maps, paintings, postcards, and blueprints for radical urban interventions. He is currently working on a literary effort that brings these ideas together in narrative form. For the fellowship, Erik is asking artists and communities to reflect on the rapid transformation now underway in our cities by considering the effect that the built environment has on each of us. Since people are largely products of the environment, shouldn't any environment be grounded in a consensus on the effects we'd like our environment to have on future humans? In other words, the project asks, "Who will we build?" before we ask, "What will we build?"



Monica Montgomery
Brooklyn, NY

Monica O. Montgomery is an international keynote, graduate professor, museum director and cultural entrepreneur, curating media and museums to be in service to society. She is a winner of the 2016 Arts Entrepreneurship Award from Fractured Atlas. Monica directs two community museums at opposite ends of the contemporary and historic spectrum. She makes history come alive as Action Director of the Lewis Latimer Historic House Museum; and she leads Museum of Impact, the world's first mobile social justice museum, to amplify the intersection of art and activism. MOI is traveling the exhibit 'Movement Is Rising: Journey of #BlackLivesMatter' and collecting stories via the Activist Love Letters™ project. Additionally Monica is the Strategic Director of Museum Hue a multicultural platform, championing diversity and people of color, in arts, culture museums and creative economy.

Monica is a sought after public speaker and coach for students and career changers, training leaders and and partnering with universities and institutions to facilitate diversity, leadership pipelines, equity & inclusion initiatives, job fairs, and talks. Additionally she organizes with Museums Workers Speak, leading the collective nationally and locally in membership recruitment, social media and external affairs to promote inclusion, parity and thriving wages careers in museums.

Monica is an alumna of Temple University with a Bachelors of Art in Broadcast Communication and LaSalle University, with a Masters of Art in Corporate Communication. She is an adjunct professor with Johns Hopkins University and Harvard University holding leadership positions in U.S Department of Arts & Culture and Arts Marketing Association UK.



Katy Moonan
Northampton, MA

Katy has moved a lot throughout her life but mainly lived in Mexico, and has now lived in Western Massachusetts for six years. She loves making music and art and enjoying the good life—good company, good food, good intentions. I currently work in Holyoke, directing Family Literacy programs for a literacy nonprofit called Reader to Reader Inc. After falling in love with the community I work for in Holyoke, I have become increasingly focused on community building through the programs I direct as well as through several creative place making projects. The project that I will be working on during this Fellowship is a community weaving coop; using old tee shirts to create strips of cloth that are then woven into rugs, with the idea that these rugs can be sold to benefit the weavers themselves. It is already underway and I'm excited to see it growing more and more.

Dominic Moore-Dunson, IPAY's 2016 Colleen Toohey Porter Emerging Artists Residency Recipient, is a dancer/choreographer and Rehearsal Coordinator with Inlet Dance Theatre. Under the direction of the Founding Executive/Artistic Director, Bill Wade, Dominic has created numerous works with students in Inlet's Summer Dance Intensive. A highlight of this choreographic opportunity occurred in July 2015, when Dominic collaboratively created a work with the young men of our summer dance camp called "Wary of the Wolves," a poignant work surrounding the injustice of the killings of young African-American men in the United States.

For this Fellowship, he will be working on a community-based, collaboratively built one man show that tackles the issue of racial self-perception and identity. The show will take a comedic examination of the African-American idea of "the black card" and help African-American youth see there is more to life than dancing on beat, rapping, and bouncing a basketball.



**Dominic Moore
Dunson**
Akron, OH



Kia Moore
Kannapolis, NC

Kia O. Moore is the founder of the social venture start-up Hip Hop Orchestrated and is the Creative Director of the mentorship-focused non-profit Hip Hop University.

Her love for all things Hip Hop Culture and her innate need to create harmony and understanding between people led her to the world of Hip Hop Philanthropy.

Prior to stepping into the non-profit sector, she worked in the publication industry in the advertising department. Moore has found her passion in the world of Hip Hop Philanthropy and is not looking back.



Matice Moore
Tucson, AZ

Maria Matice Moore is a Black queer artist and a practicing Buddhist educator activist. They've served as the Program Director of African American Student Affairs for the University of Arizona, and designed strategic planning and anti-oppression workshops for high schools, community colleges, and professionals. They currently do fundraising and visual art with the Serpentine Sunrise project, and have worked on a number of fundraising projects to support community awareness of sex worker rights and bond support for people and families who've experienced the crisis of immigration detention.



Tico Moore
Wilmington, DE

With over ten years of diverse professional experience working in education (creating & implementing innovative curricula) and excellent people skills, Tico brings this same passion & commitment of success to his newest community organizing efforts in the city of Wilmington, DE. The African-American Writers Institute will serve as a nonprofit organization seeking to advance the practice of writing and passion for the literary arts in adults and young people through programs that support cultural literacy, self-expression, and the “power” within the sharing of writing & literature. The Managing Other People for Success (MOPS) Campaign will be a social justice and self-advocacy initiative implemented through a community writing, community involvement and community organizing campaign. Through partnering former inmates with elderly care facilities, both populations will benefit from the social and intellectual interactions that are needed for both groups’ social, emotional and physical well-being.



Mikelle Moore
Sunny Isles Beach, FL

Raised in Alabama and Illinois, Miami-based photographer, Mikelle earned her BA in Photography at Southern Illinois University and received a Graduate Fellowship from the University of Miami where she completed the coursework for her MFA. After teaching children and adults for several years with notable organizations such as The Art Center of South Florida, Lifetime Arts, Urgent Inc. and The Panasonic Digital Photo Academy, Mikelle decided to follow her passion as an art educator. In 2011, she created MAM Youth Arts, a children’s enrichment program teaching photography, deejaying and other unique arts after school. Desiring to do more, she recently began the creation of MAM Visual Arts Education, a non-profit providing year round courses focusing on spreading the love of art and self-expression in underserved communities. After spending time with youth and seniors residing in the historic and soon to be gentrified community of Overtown, Mikelle realized the importance of creating a platform that will promote creative self-expression during the gentrification process. Through photo and video, she will work with current Overtown residents to explore the history, lives, loves and struggles in the amazing community once known as the “Harlem of the South.”



Jess Moore
Durham, NC

Jess is a community arts organizer with a strong interest in creating new opportunities for arts in NC communities. Over the past 10 years, she has worked with arts-focused non-profits and city government, finally launching Open Art Society in June 2013. Collaboration, mutual understanding, and creativity drive much of what she does. She is always looking for opportunities to bring these ideas together. She is a big believer in resilience... in our communities and our environments, and feels we need to work together to support change that promotes that kind of recovery. For the Fellowship, she focused on art in neighborhoods. Starting with a small space in the Walltown area of Durham, she will launch for more art in more neighborhoods. The big vision — an artist-in-residence in every Durham neighborhood and a network to support and promote the work they do.



**Kristina
Newman-Scott**
Hartford, CT

Kristina is currently the Director of Culture for the State of Connecticut. Prior to that she served as the Director of Marketing, Events and Cultural Affairs for the City of Hartford and the Director of Programs at the Boston Center for the Arts in Boston. During her year at BCA, she increased program participation by 20 percent and raised BCA's national profile. Before BCA she was the Director of Visual Arts at Real Art Ways in Hartford where she organized over 70 exhibitions and numerous publications. She has been a panelist and visiting curator at institutions across the country and her projects have been praised by a variety of national and international publications including *The New York Times*. Before coming to the U.S., Kristina was a practicing artist and art consultant in Kingston, Jamaica and a popular TV/radio host and producer. Her project focused on developing a systematic approach to integrate artistic practice into strategic municipal planning and project development via the artist in residence model.



Christina Nip
San Francisco, CA

For the past four years, Christina has worked in a nonprofit health coalition that serves San Francisco's Chinese community. Her project, Community Dance Intersection, aims to introduce dance as an art-form, a healthy activity, and a tool for community building to the underserved Chinatown neighborhood through classes catered to children and families as a way of reaching into my community to make lasting changes. Christina is passionate about the idea of health as a community pursuit, and sees health in a holistic context. She believes that artistic expression is vital for the health and well-being of individuals and communities. She also believes that artistic expression is a vehicle for personal and community development.



Elena Olascoaga
Monterey, MEXICO

Elena was born in 1988, in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. She holds a MA in Gender and Development. She graduated with honours from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. She has worked for UN Women as well as local government institutions, as a Gender and Development (GAD) consultant providing technical assistance for mainstreaming gender in research, consultancies, programs and projects. She believes change will only happen when actions promoted at national and international lobbies reach and create synergies at local level with communitarian actors. That is the reason why she has been promoting communitarian actions that actively involve change-makers from all ages and different backgrounds. She currently funds and participates with several initiatives, focused on civil society, that promote gender equality through technological (civic apps) and creative projects such as a documentary and a theatre play.



Aneliese Palmer
Anchorage, AK

Aneliese's ethos is that if you're not laughing, something needs to change. As a high school improv coach, her students have become a formidable force for positive social change in their school (as well as being hilarious).

Aneliese has been performing improv since high school, and remembers the great impact it had on her life. Ten years later, she's performing in Anchorage once again with the city's two troupes, Scared Scriptless Improv and Urban Yeti Improv. After graduating from Harvard University in 2012 with a degree in Comparative Religion, she is employed by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, working to increase college access in first generation and low-income students.

Her project combines both worlds, using improvisation to strengthen students' adaptability and creative problem solving, ultimately building cultural capital in under-served high schools across the state.

Elise comes from a gigantic Catholic family in Baltimore. She has one non-identical twin sister and two non-identical non-twin sisters. She received her B.A. in philosophy and art history from McGill University. From 2002 to 2005, Elise ran afterschool programs for teen girls at her favorite community center on New York's Lower East Side. She accidentally relocated to rural Alaska in 2006 where she helped facilitate StoryCorps' Alaska Initiative. Elise produced Sitka Speakeasy, a radio show dedicated to place-based stories for KCAW. In 2012 she relocated to Maine to attend The Salt Institute for Documentary Study. Elise received a Community Arts Development Grant to produce "The Other AK: an experiment in narrative tourism." Her creative work stems from the social work principle that all people desire a sense of belonging and a sense of meaning. She believes in the experiment of using art as a strategy to foster both of these things. So far, she has collaborated with communities to organize spontaneous dance parties, a snow angel mob, and a city-wide scavenger hunt based on local knowledge and good will. Her project, Portland Brick, builds public memory with artist Ayumi Horie and The City of Portland, Maine.

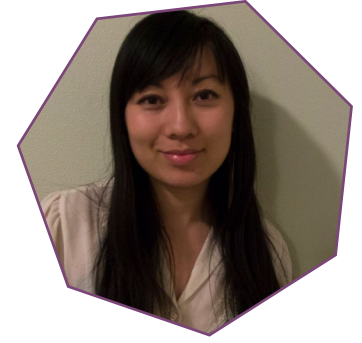


Elise Pepple
Marfa, TX



Damaris Pereda
Huntington Beach, CA

Damaris has been a teacher for the past five years. Seeing first-hand the disparities and opportunity gap her students face in their communities, Damaris' passion shifted toward focusing on community development because she has seen how it truly takes a village to raise a child — it's not just on one parent, one teacher, or one event. Damaris was a Teach for America 2009 Corps Member in Washington D.C., and continued teaching at a Green Dot Public School in Los Angeles thereafter. As a fellow, she focused on developing a community cultural center in South East LA, where she was born and raised. Alongside the newly founded South East LA Collective, they want to create a public space to offer workshops, hosts art exhibits highlighting local artist, and provide job training to our local high school and college students as a preventive measure to help close the opportunity gap in our communities.



Van Pham
Portland, OR

Van Pham is an artist and administrator from Portland, Oregon via Reno, Nevada. Her artwork is concerned with how people occupy space and cooperate to make meaning in them, exploring spiritual practices and ritual through community gatherings and online collections of trends in adaptive reuse. She is often trying to strike a balance as a performer and a programmer - she has toured the U.S. with her band; contributed to the Xchurch artist collective that has exhibited installations along the West Coast; and co-runs the website (and documentary film project) Xhurches, devoted to profiling the secular uses of religious buildings.

Van curates a series of interdisciplinary performances at a church venue and other sites in Portland; assembles artists and scholars to lecture on technology and spirit in modern times as a programmer for the Portland Center for the Public Humanities; and works as the coordinator for the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art's residency program, the Creative Exchange Lab.

She was also recently admitted into the MA program in Cultural Policy, Relations, and Diplomacy at Goldsmiths College of London, where she will be exploring more work around culture, people, and places.



Sara Potler LaHayne
New York, NY

A life-long dancer and previous professional performer, Sara was a Fulbright Scholar in Bogotá, Colombia when she authored, implemented, and evaluated the original Move This World curriculum with third graders in Colombian public elementary schools. Today she is the Founder & CEO of Move This World, an organization that harnesses the power of creativity to reduce fear, build trust and inspire change within communities. Move This World has trained over 2,500 adults and impacted over 25,000 youth across 22 cities on four continents to address the emotional wellbeing of themselves and others in order to foster safe and supported learning environments.



Julie Potter
San Francisco, CA

Julie is a community engagement specialist, performance curator and writer based in San Francisco. As the Creative Ecosystems Senior Program Manager at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Potter is developing a series of artist-driven think tanks, which address human rights through a lens of creativity. Composed of five Networks gathered around topics of the urban future, labor, ecology, economy and place, the Creative Ecosystem evolves participant research to generate art and idea festivals, each considered a Field of Inquiry. (The Creative Ecosystem is the project to be designed during the Fellowship.) Potter also manages YBCA:You for which she creates programs stimulating the frequency, diversity and community of art-going, and conducts creative case management developing individualized curricula for community members. Potter was the 2013 Writer in Residence at the ODC Theater and is completing her MA at Wesleyan University's Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance. In New York, Potter worked at The Juilliard School and Weber Shandwick Travel and Lifestyle Practice.



Steve Prince
Meadville, PA

Steve's project was an original program titled "Read to Live" that sought to address illiteracy by working with Allegheny College students to go into the local high school to work with art, English, and marketing students and teachers to create original children's books. Together they developed the story, created the illustrations, and printed the books. The books were made by the high school students, under the direction of the college students. The books were read to middle and elementary students by the high school students as they serve as role models for each generation.



Emily Puthoff
Kingston, NY

Emily Puthoff is an artist who, when not advocating for bees, is traveling the country with her custom-built teardrop trailer with her partner, Elena Snizek, to converse with people about their ideas of progress. She is an educator and accidental bee enthusiast. In 2013, she assigned her students to create a sculpture for bees and invited a local biodynamic beekeeper to her class to speak about bees. She was instantly enthralled with bees and astonished by their importance to our eco-systemic health and food shed.

In 2016, she co-founded the Hudson Valley Bee Habitat (HVBH), an arts organization located in Kingston, NY. The HVBH's mission is to pollinate community engagement with the environment and each other through the arts, bees, and mindfulness. HVBH is working in collaboration with the emerging Kingston Greenline to create the Kingston Bee-Line, a series of artist-designed bee habitats and artist-led community engagements along the Greenline.



Julie Rada
Salt Lake City, UT

Juli has an MFA in Performance from Arizona State University and currently holds a fellowship at the University of Utah. Identifying as a director, designer, performance artist, and scholar, she has been doing theatre for over 25 years and has worked on over 80 theatrical projects. She attended the Experimental Theatre Wing at NYU/Tisch and Naropa University for undergraduate studies. Julie was selected by the National Endowment for the Arts as the Artist-in-Residence at the Federal Correctional Institute of Phoenix (though complications with the site prevented the program's implementation). She has been honored with numerous awards, including the university-wide Distinguished Graduate Student award from the ASU Faculty Women's Association and the Herberger Dean's Fellowship. She is a member of Theatre Communications Group, the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, and Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.



Jordan Reeves
Brooklyn, NY

Jordan Reeves is a former science educator from Hueytown, Alabama who's passionate about several things: veganism, the environment, Dolly Parton, and the LGBTQ community. He helped start TED's education initiative, TED-Ed, where he worked to grow the content library and build a community around lessons that can change the world. Today, there are hundreds of TED-Ed videos that have been viewed about a billion times. After TED, Reeves helped launch Understood.org, an award-winning platform for families with learning and attention issues. In 2016, Reeves started VideoOut, a nonprofit that amplifies the voices of LGBTQ people. VideoOut travels the world collecting coming-out stories that are shared via an online library and wielded as tools for education, awareness, and advocacy. In two years, VideoOut has reached over a million people and recorded over 200 gorgeous stories.



Benjamin Rexroad
Akron, OH

Benjamin Rexroad is a theatre artist with a passion for poetry, travel and community. He has trained with John O'Neal of The Free Southern Theater, New York-based SITI Company and was one of 25 international directors selected to participate in the 2014 Directors Lab North in Toronto.

Since establishing Heads Up Productions six years ago (now Wandering Aesthetics), Benjamin has produced or directed over 70 performance events. In 2011, he was presented with the Rising Young Star/Leadership Akron Area Arts Alive Award. The same year, he helped launch Akron's only African-American theatre company and received a grant to tour a role-playing workshop about racism, poverty, class and social status. In 2013, Benjamin and his partner completed a thru-hike of the 2,185.9-mile Appalachian Trail.

Currently, Benjamin is working on a variety of projects designed to help reverse the flow of young professionals and artists who are leaving Akron because they feel a lack of opportunity.



Rachel Reynolds Luster
Thayer, MO

Rachel is a mom, a fiddler, an artist, a librarian, and a community organizer. Her project is the Oregon County Food Producers and Artisans Co-Op which serves as a nexus for several cultural and land-based community development projects in the Missouri Ozarks. Some of the ideas for this concept came from a deep love of place and the work of Wendell Berry, Gary Snyder, Lucy Lippard, and the M12 Collective. Rachel is a founding member of Art of The Rural. A "finger project" expanding from the co-op is The Myrtle Library which has gotten much love since she started almost a year ago. It's a one-room tiny library in the "sleepy hamlet" of Myrtle, Missouri.



Josh Rice
Perry, NY

Josh is a Leo and a recent MFA Theatre graduate from Sarah Lawrence College. He is a theatre artist based in NYC. His project is called the Mnemonic Theatre Project. It sets out to use theatre, specifically puppetry, movement, and music to enrich and enhance the lives of seniors, particularly those suffering from Alzheimer's and Dementia-related diseases. The initial phase of the program at the Wartburg in Mt. Vernon, NY was featured on the PBS documentary series, Visionaries. Josh is also the eldest runt in his family, as he is the oldest, but all of his brothers are MUCH taller.



Laura Ritchie
Durham, NC

Laura is co-founder of The Carrack, a zero-commission gallery and performance venue in Durham, North Carolina. The Carrack provides professional space at no cost to artists and fosters connections between artists and audiences through interdisciplinary programming. Laura is interested in re-imagining the visual arts community, negotiating boundaries within the art world, and adding to the creative possibilities of exhibition spaces. The Carrack's team works to build a safe, inclusive space for provoking work that ensures the visibility of underrepresented artists. With this fellowship, Laura will develop a sustainable business plan that allows The Carrack to grow responsibly within a rapidly developing downtown landscape. Laura is a native of Salisbury, North Carolina, holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from UNC-Chapel Hill, studied at Studio Arts Center International in Florence, Italy and at the Institute for Curatorial Practice at Hampshire College. She simultaneously runs a Durham-based Creative Mentorship Program that partners high school students with professional artists.



Jaclyn Roessel
Bernalillo, NM

Jaclyn Roessel was born and raised on the Navajo Nation, between the communities of Kayenta, Round Rock and Lukachukai, Arizona. She holds a B.A. in Art History and a Master's in Public Administration from Arizona State University. She was the inaugural recipient of the Arizona Humanities Rising Star Award in 2013, which is given to young professionals whose work elevates the importance of

humanities in the community. She's been named one of Phoenix 100 Creatives You Should Know. She is the owner of the greeting card company Naaltsoos Project and co-founder of the blog, Presence 4.O. These projects focus on the power of identity and as well as share the visual resistance of Native style. She co-founded the project Schmooze: Lady Connected a platform dedicated to sharing women's stories in the southwest through multi-media streams.

Over the past decade as a museum professional at the Heard Museum, Roessel confirmed her belief in the power of utilizing cultural learning as a tool to engage and build stronger Native communities. She recently shifted her focus to pursuing her entrepreneurial role as the founder of the blog and online community, Grownup Navajo. From her new home base in New Mexico, she aims to use Navajo traditional knowledge as a catalyst to create change in our communities today. Her focus in Creative Community Fellows program is K'é Powered. It is a community-based arts project that will occur on the Navajo Nation and will engage mentor and emerging mentee artists. The groups of artists will work to build a program that will incorporate themes of Futurism by challenging youth mentee artists to envision the kind of world they want to live in. The scope of the project will share how traditional Navajo/Native American knowledge has a place in helping us create a more inclusive future while also displaying the ability of creativity to help us put these practices to work for the betterment of our communities.



Erin Salazar
San Jose, CA

Erin Salazar is an artist, muralist, seamstress and a public art curator. In 2015, Erin was selected as Emerging City Champion through 8-80 Cities and Knight Foundation. This fellowship equipped her with the networks and resources to help create a healthier, safer, more vibrant San Jose. In 2014 she put into motion a plan she's had since founding the mural arts club at San Jose State University, the Exhibition District (ExD). The goal of the Exhibition District is to create economic opportunities for artists through city beautification. ExD's first milestone is to create a public street art gallery with 40,000 square feet of fresh artwork in the next 5 years.

She has led beautification and advocacy projects including 9 murals totalling 10,000sf of otherwise bland vertical space. Erin's mission is to remove the word "starving" from the artists industry.

Her favorite color is black.



Lula Saleh
Minneapolis, MN

Lula Saleh is an Ethiopian-Eritrean American, multidisciplinary artist, singer-songwriter, poet, cultural worker, writer, organizer and Empath. She is the founder of the East African Diaspora Artists Initiative (EADAI), an intersectional creative and social platform for artists of that diaspora. Lula is a Givens Black Writers Fellowship alum, a NEXUS Music Artist, and an Intercultural Leadership Institute (ILI) Fellow. She works as an organizer, healer, and in creative placemaking with African immigrants in the Twin Cities, Minnesota.

Born and raised in Saudi Arabia, and living in both Ethiopia and the UK as a child, Lula identifies as a third culture kid. She writes and sings at the intersections of her multiethnic, transnational diaspora identity. Her poetry and music genre of electronic-acoustic-soul music reflect her eclectic heritage, touching upon themes of the East African diaspora, loss, culture, homelands, and (be)longing.

Lula has performed at, been featured in or received recognition from: The Loft Literary Center, the National Endowment for the Arts, Pillsbury House, Ananya Dance, and Pangea World Theaters, and more.



Nathalie Sanchez
Los Angeles, CA

Nathalie is a Los Angeles-based artist, educator and co-founder of Ceramics Studio 153, a professional studio and art space specializing in ceramics arts education and production. After graduating from Loyola Marymount University with a double major in studio arts with an emphasis in education and art history, she began to explore the intersections of art and community. In 2010, Sanchez obtained her M.F.A. from Otis College of Art and Design's Public Practice graduate program and she co-produced large-scale, multi-media public art projects. Recently, she have developed and organized experimental ceramic workshops at Ceramics Studio 153 where she invites local community members to ceramic wheel-throwing workshops, engage in conversation and enjoy dinner together. Throwing Food is a ceramics art project that teaches local chefs to create wheel-thrown ceramic plates and inscribe their stories on the interior in order to then be duplicated and distributed to restaurants throughout Los Angeles.



Taraneh Sarrafzadeh
San Jose, CA

Taraneh Sarrafzadeh is the owner of Be the Change Yoga & Wellness, a donation-based yoga studio in downtown San Jose, which seeks to make yoga & wellness accessible to its entire community. Beyond the regular studio classes that Be the Change (BTC) offers, the organization also works to build community around health & wellness through wellness events and services offered in public spaces such as parks, community

centers, local farms, and other community spaces. For the last 2.5 years Taraneh has been expanding and growing “Yoga for All” with Be the Change, after leaving 5 years of growth in her prior tech start-up work as a program manager. Before that Taraneh studied Environmental Studies at UC Santa Barbara, with an emphasis on Urban Planning and a minor in Global Peace & Security. In addition to running BTC, Taraneh teaches yoga to at-risk youth, including girls incarcerated in juvenile hall, in high schools, and in elementary schools.

With a longtime passion for working to uplift humanity and contribute to social and environmental justice, Taraneh is beginning to come full circle to a role beyond “yoga studio owner & teacher”, but also a community organizer who utilizes yoga and mindfulness as a platform to bring people together around authentic and compassionate living and action. For Taraneh and Be the Change, authentic and compassionate living means not only thriving individually, but collectively, including the need to uplift those who have been marginalized socio-culturally, economically, and systematically. Taraneh truly believes that the path of uplift must include the cultivation of both personal clarity, awareness, and well-being as well as a community engagement and activism, and her work seeks to inspire both.



Ginger is the Executive Director of Crossroads Carnegie Art Center and lives in remote, rural Baker County Oregon and has been at Crossroads for 7 years. Ginger’s project will be to engage the community in a creative way finding project for Historic Baker City, OR to capture the vibrant growing artists community against the backdrop of one of the most interesting Historic cities in the West. She also wants to create an artist’s relocation program for Baker City in her spare time. Ginger, is not an artist, but is a wife, mother of two “twenty-something” sons and loves the rural and remote place she calls home.



Ginger Savage
Baker City, OR



Ben Sax
Los Angeles, CA

Ben Sax is a creative director, inventor and interactive artist based in Los Angeles.

He is the founder of Perceptoscope, a scalable public arts initiative devoted to engaging people with the places around them through mixed reality binocular viewers. It's an open-source movement for bridging the digital and physical worlds, as well an act of social practice art that brings together a diverse coalition of neighbors, artists, and storytellers.

Outside of the project, Ben leads teams in crafting creative for non-profits, brands, and social causes. His work as a filmmaker explores issues in the forces that transform communities and their built environment, and the relationship between image makers and their tools.

In 2016, Ben was the inaugural artist in residence at the SupplyFrame DesignLab, where he took Perceptoscope through a Design for Manufacturing sprint. Later that year he presented Perceptoscope in the Arts and Interaction category of SXSW Eco Place by Design. As part of the 2017 class of Cultural Policy Fellows through Arts for LA Activate, Ben is working with local leaders to implement Perceptoscope projects across the city.



Madeline Sayet
New York, NY

Madeline is the Artistic Director of Amerinda Inc., Artistic Director of the Mad & Merry Theatre Company and a Van Lier Directing Fellow at Second Stage Theatre. She is a recipient of the White House Champion of Change Award for Native America for her work as a director, performer, writer, and educator. Her fellowship project is the Native Shakespeare Ensemble at Amerinda Inc. Native American Theatre Artists are the most underserved constituency and this project is one of many aimed at empowering Native voice across the globe. Native Shakespeare gives Native artists a chance to find their voice by rediscovering classic text. Native audiences have a chance to see Shakespeare as a tool for empowerment. Non-Native audiences have an opportunity to experience established texts reinvisioned by Native peoples in a new way, opening them up to Native Theatre, and enabling contemporary Native Theatre artists to take their well-earned place in the American theatrical canon.



Andrew Shea
New York, NY

Andrew cares about the craft of visual storytelling and designing meaningful solutions for the common good at his studio MANY. His work has been featured on website like *Fast Company*, *Slate*, *Print*, and *99 Percent Invisible*. His book, *Designing for Social Change: Strategies for Community-Based Graphic Design*, was published by Princeton Architectural Press and he has also written for publications like *Entrepreneur Magazine*, *Core77*, *AIGA*, *Design Observer*, and *GOOD*. Andrew teaches design at both Parsons and Pratt and often speaks about design, recently at TEDx Transmedia in Rome. His project focused on getting more people to use revolving doors. The more people chose to use them over swinging doors, the more buildings savings on energy, CO₂, and money. He believes theses doors can become more engaging through strategic design and Creative Placemaking.



Scott Shigeoka
San Francisco, CA

Scott Shigeoka is creating non-ordinary worlds to help people explore how to live more fully in the ordinary world. He loves mangoes, freestyle rapping, spontaneous dance parties and can be found somewhere between Iceland and Hawaii (Oakland to be exact). He is the founder of Saga, a social enterprise in Iceland that hosts music festivals, artist residencies and creativity summits to nurture healing, belongingness and the creative capacity of leaders. Scott is the artistic director if LavaSaga, a California-based immersive theater company that is putting on its premiere piece *Second Chance*, which brings strangers together to experience their own death in a 2-hour experience. Scott also works at the design firm IDEO, supporting a distributed network of creative community leaders in more than 30 cities who tackle important issues like public health, equity and climate change.



Aletheia Shin
Baltimore, MD

Seven percent of Baltimore population is immigrants owns twenty-one percent of businesses in Baltimore. Immigrants are a “entrepreneurial force” in Baltimore that actively participate in shaping Baltimore. Aletheia explores the diasporic nature of the Korean immigrant community, focused through the lens of the Korean small business owners, seniors and student communities in Baltimore. Incorporating the methodology of community organizing and storytelling, she focuses on building local leadership through creative platforms that promote solidarity and community voices. Aletheia seeks to organize “Rise Up Korea Town,” a sequel to the pilot initiative, “Pop Up Korea Town,” with additional partnership, support, and collaboration with the art district Station North and Mayor’s Office of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, to facilitate the creation of a vehicle to nurture culture, to build, bridge and leverage social capital with neighboring communities, and to bring awareness to the long standing Korean community in Baltimore.



Yvonne Shortt
Long Island City, NY

Yvonne is a mother, activist, artist, collaborator, technologist, and social entrepreneur. For the last seven years her hobbies included designing and implementing community based projects like turning a 4,000 square foot garbage dump into a community garden and turning a scary underpass into an art exhibition. Then, two years ago Ms. Shortt decided to turn her hobbies into her job. And, it has been a beautiful and enchanting ride that included launching CC3DP (a 12 week tri-state 3d design and printing residency and challenge) and Queens Art Intervention (outdoor art in unpredictable places) to inspire and educate others. Last year two kids in Ms. Shortt’s daughter’s class, were hit by cars in a one week span. Now, Ms. Shortt is launching Pedestrian Penguin, a card game to change the behavior of walkers, bicyclists, and drivers. Through community collaboration and repetition Pedestrian Penguin will be a game that saves lives.



Clinnesha Sibley
McComb, MS

Clinnesha D. Sibley, a native of McComb, Mississippi, strives to advance the social consciousness of all people through her writing, teaching, community activism and arts endeavoring. Growing up a playwright, poet and performer/dancer, Clinnesha committed to training exclusively as a playwright while attending Tougaloo College in Jackson, Mississippi. As an Interdisciplinary Career Oriented Humanities major, she learned to focus inward: exploring identity, psyche, and the human condition. It was at this historically black college that Clinnesha also learned the connection between social activism and artistic practice.

A published author of plays, poetry, monologues and essays, she taught college courses before focusing on secondary education. In 2016, she moved back home to become a servant leader in the arts.

Her project is the Southwest Mississippi Multiplex of Early Innovative Intervention Studies. The purpose of this research center is to discover ways in which arts and culture reduce barriers to children's learning and give way to social cohesion.

Kristianna Smith is a theatre activist and educator. She has spent over a decade working with youth, educators, and the elderly reinvigorating the human experience through theatre arts.

Kristianna is the Founding Partner of the arts service company Via Arts LLC. She works with educators, community organizers, and student leaders to enhance their methods and practices with arts infusion. Through arts-based programming, Kristianna also collaborates with her partners to increase their accessibility to address the difficult topics of privilege, equity, oppression, and creativity within their communities.

Kristianna seeks to devise an arts integrated approach for community leaders and local politicians that utilizes theatre techniques at every stage of policy planning. This approach would incorporate civic engagement theatre techniques to build community, process data, and experientially test drive policy ideas before putting them into action.

Kristianna is known for her quick wit, can-do attitude, and love of purple.



Kristianna Smith
New Britain, CT



Jessica Solomon
Baltimore, MD

Jess Solomon is an organization development practitioner and cultural worker leveraging the power of the arts to build capacity and resiliency in organizations and communities. Based in Baltimore, she leads Art in Praxis, a social enterprise dedicated to increasing the impact of mission-driven organizations and companies. Jess specializes in strategic planning, change management, and impact design. She currently serves as the Senior Program Officer at the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation with a focus on arts and social justice. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park and American University where she earned a Master's of Science in Organization Development.



Sarah Sullivan
Phoenix, AZ

Sarah is a theatre artist, arts administrator, educator and writer based in Phoenix, Arizona. She is the co-founder and Artistic Director of Rising Youth Theatre (RYT), a company that creates original plays with young people in collaboration with professional artists. Through Rising Youth Theatre, she has directed and produced a number of youth-driven plays based in the Phoenix community, including Fandom, Shipwrecked, and Some Are Beginning, and built partnerships with social service organizations across the Phoenix area. She also currently serves as the Development Manager of Childsplay, where she coordinates fundraising programs for the organization, co-edits the Incite-Insight journal for the American Alliance for Theatre and Education and blogs about feminism and young adult literature at Slatebreakers.com. She holds her MFA in Theatre for Youth from Arizona State University. With this project, she plans to explore how RYT can move its programming out of the theatre and into alternative, non-traditional performance spaces.



Usha Srinivasan
San Jose, CA

Usha Srinivasan is the founder and president of Sangam Arts, a Silicon Valley 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to promote multicultural understanding through performing arts.

She believes that the increasing cultural diversity in the US demands new modes of social integration. If we are to thrive as a vibrant, harmonious community rather

than merely co-exist with uneasy alliances based on economics or politics alone, we must develop systemic ways to engage with each other in congenial, creative settings that help us see our common humanity while celebrating our differences. This is what she hopes to achieve through Sangam Arts. In addition to managing Sangam Arts, Usha runs a consulting practice providing product strategy and product marketing services to high tech companies in Silicon Valley. She holds a Masters degree in Electrical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY and an MBA from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.

Usha is a trained Bharatanatyam (Classical Indian) dancer and performs with her daughter locally and in India. She is a member of the Cultural Commission of the City of Santa Clara and part of the Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute (MALI) Cohort (2015-16) in San Jose. She has served on the Board of World Arts West, the producer of the famous San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival and on the board of Wildlife Rescue, Palo Alto.

Usha lives in Santa Clara with her husband, two young daughters and a dachshund Milo. She is a fan of British mysteries and an ace solver of cryptic crosswords.



Tim Syth
Milwaukee, WI

Tim Syth is a project-based worker focused on the evolution of work in society. Tim supports organizations and workers as they adapt to the shifting nature of work and income-generation. He believes the activity of work is evolving, and there exists a golden opportunity to reconsider the economics of work for the better.

Tim's interests are collaborative systems and methods that improve organizational operation, heighten worker productivity and wellness, and expand economic opportunity. He has three of years experience running a coworking space in Milwaukee, WI, and is currently working as researcher and a creative placemaking consultant.

Prior to relocating to Milwaukee, Tim worked as a photographer in Berlin, Germany, while completing his Master's degree in the the field of Media & Communications. Tim has a BFA in Art Photography, has lived abroad extensively, grew up in the rural farming community of Greenwood, WI, and is handy with a chainsaw. A balanced life-practice and Nora (his companion) are key to his production.



Christopher Taylor
Flagstaff, AZ

Christopher was born in Brooklyn, New York, and grew up in Massachusetts. Chris received his BFA at Northern Arizona University, spent a year studying Aboriginal Art in Australia, and received an MFA from Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Chris is co-owner of Satellite Contemporary, Las Vegas. He teaches painting at Northern Arizona University, is Gallery Director of the Beasley Gallery, and Program Coordinator for the Artist Residency Program at Rogers Lake. In 2013, Chris' work was published in *New American Paintings: Edition 108*. In 2015, Chris was selected by Suzanne McClelland for residency as an associate artist at the Atlantic Center for the Arts. Chris volunteers with the Hozhoni Foundation, an arts day program for adults with developmental disabilities. During this Fellowship, Chris will be implementing the Western Drawing Project; a "bookmobile" for art that fosters the storytelling aspect of art in rural and Native American communities.



Nell Taylor
Chicago, IL

Nell is the founder and executive director of Read/Write Library and a digital strategy and media consultant specializing in user experience, data, and discovery strategies from a human-centered research and design perspective. Nell has consulted on a wide range of projects ranging from websites for global NGOs and Fortune 500 brands to arts data mapping tools, and was a staff blogger for the Poetry Foundation as well as co-founder of the annual 4,000-attendee Printers' Ball, a participatory small press celebration. Previously, she lead planning, research, and communications at an art studio that produced interactive video installations for Esquire, Qualcomm, Sundance Film Festival, and the National Portrait Gallery. Read/Write Library has been featured in The New York Times and NPR's All Things Considered and Nell has presented at SXSW Interactive, TEDActive, MIT, UNC, Code4Lib, ORD Camp, and the Chicago Colloquium for Digital Humanities and Computer Science among others.



Amanda Thompson
Miami, FL

Amanda is a Program Officer, Arts at the Knight Foundation in Miami. Prior to joining Knight, she was the planning director of the city of Decatur, GA. While urban planning and dance may seem like an unlikely pairing, Amanda used these disciplines to engage the community, translate a vision into tangible form and to shape space for the purposes of expression and movement. During the renovation of a city facility the Decatur arts community lost its performance space. Her CCF project was to utilize the ideas of progress/displacement and roots/home to create performance and installation pieces that would honor Decatur's cultural resources, build arts leadership and revitalize East Howard Avenue as a new home for the creative community. Amanda loves an adventure. She has created dances in water, survived multi-hour zoning hearings and can frequently be found on a plane exploring a new country.



Joe Tolbert
New York, NY

Joe T. is a cultural organizer that works at the intersections of art, culture, and spirituality to better communities. He specializes in the storytelling arts to help individuals and communities celebrate the best of their communities and to reframe traumatic stories to provide pathways to healing.



Quentin Turner
Detroit, MI

Quentin Turner is a Detroit native who has been involved in non-profit work his entire life. His mother was the director of her own community development organization while he was growing up and he would assist her during community clean ups and beautification.

Once in college, Quentin joined and then led a student environmental oriented group in order to engage and educate his university's student body on climate issues. During his college career he traveled to New Zealand to perform habitat restoration, monitored butterfly populations in Michigan's national parks and engineered a myriad of fun and educational activities on his campus.

Currently he is serving on the board of a non-profit that engages and educates Detroit children and families in responsible recycling. The project he is proposing for this fellowship will be a pilot native plant nursery that will have its plants donated to community art and landscape designs within the neighborhood he serves at his current job.



Romain Vakilitabar
Littleton, CO

After a bad accident where he was forced to contemplate life, Romain Vakilitabar decided he would pursue a journey worth living. Since then, he published his children's book communicating climate change to younger audiences, traveled the world with Unreasonable at Sea, a social entrepreneurship accelerator on a ship, helping 9 ventures scale globally, and helped build Watson University, a new university model for 25 of the world's most promising next generation leaders, as Vice President.

Romain is now founder of PathosVR, a virtual reality lab creating empathy-based and perception-changing experiences. He's written for Technori.com, is featured in the new books "2 Billion Under 20" and "Compassionate Careers", has spoken internationally, and was voluntarily homeless in the streets of Scandinavia to train his mental resilience and to test the dogma that "need is the mother of all invention."



Joan Vorderbruggen
Minneapolis, MN

Joan Vorderbruggen is the Director of Public Art and Placemaking for Hennepin Theatre Trust. An artist and organizer, Joan envisions possibilities for the most dejected spaces, connecting local and international artists with opportunities to activate Hennepin Avenue in the heart of downtown Minneapolis.

In spring of 2016, she was awarded a “Heart of the Community” grant from Southwest Airlines to work with Project for Public Spaces activating Hennepin Avenue with the project, “5 to 10 on Hennepin.” In less than one year, Joan has evolved the project to include participatory conceptualizing, planning, and budgeting with adults and youth experiencing homelessness while increasing the capacity of human service partners in the area to provide paid opportunities to transient communities that depend on Hennepin Avenue as a place to belong. She is now poised to engage these communities to influence the reconstruction of Hennepin Avenue in 2020 at the city level. Joan is a founding member of the Placemaking Leadership Council, serves on the Board of Directors for Forecast Public Art, and is a member of the Ethical Redevelopment Salon led by Place Lab and the University of Chicago.

Robert Warren is an artist and entrepreneur who arrived in New Orleans in 2011 by way of Teach For America. While teaching 9th grade English on the West Bank he completed a Masters in Education before moving into non-profit as the Director of Program Implementation for Youth Run NOLA.



Robert Warren
New Orleans, LA

From this seemingly incongruent mix of experiences came Gigsy.co, a business that books professional event photographers and also mentors, supplies, and employs the next generation of talented youth photographers.

We’re disrupting the photography industry and helping break the cycle of youth poverty in New Orleans.



Chris Webb
Cleveland, OH

Chris has a passion to find creative solutions for problems in urban areas. During the course of the fellowship he worked on a project that focused on urban decay in his hometown, Cleveland, Ohio. With many abandoned homes, vacant businesses, and empty factories in the city, Chris wanted to use archival data to highlight certain structures. It was his aim to let abandoned buildings "speak" about the legacy that they and their neighborhoods once shared, and to start a conversation that changes the perceptions of his city's identity.



David White
San Diego, CA

David is an artist and educator who explores issues of urban development and how aesthetic forms are used in this process. For six years David ran Agitprop art space which used the form of the gallery as a tool for long term engagement with a particular locality; and functioned as a performative object in urban space through collaborations with cultural institutions, neighborhood advocates and small business owners. Currently he is developing a publicly accessible micro-research space located in the San Diego neighborhood of Barrio Logan focused on grassroots development approaches called Soft Borders. David's work has been included in multiple museum exhibitions and publications. He teaches art and architecture at Woodbury University and Southwestern College.



Emilia White
Ann Arbor, MI

Emilia is an interdisciplinary performance artist functioning under the artist name Emilia Javanica, which is a small red flower that looks like a paintbrush. Originally from northern California, she has also resided in Seattle, WA, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and Ann Arbor, Michigan. She has a background in theater and puppetry, and worked as an arts and community organizer for four years with the Yogyakarta artist collective Taring Padi. For the past three years Emilia has co-curated an ongoing experimental performance series in Detroit, The Performance Laboratory. She enjoys things that are humorous, and is the mother to an adorable little boy named Arlo Maxson.



Ash Williams
Charlotte, NC

Ashley Williams is a trans non-binary femme from Fayetteville, NC. As a Black Lives Matter organizer, Ashley has educated the NC community about state-sanctioned violence as it relates to trans and queer people of color.

Since 2013, this work has included leading rapid response/ guerilla actions, building solidarity and coalitions across differences, developing press strategies, designing campaigns, educating and mobilizing people on social media, and training other organizers.

As campaign manager for a NC Representative, Ashley has also managed donations and calendars, facilitated training for volunteers and interns, supervised all campaign communications, conducted research, and planned and implemented campaign strategies. Ashley is a 2016 Human Rights Advocacy Fellow in Residence and Ignite NC Fellow (working against voter suppression), and won the Cyrus M. Johnson Award for Peace and Social Justice in 2014 and the Charlotte Pride Young Catalyst Award in 2016. They hold a Master's in Ethics and Applied Philosophy and a Bachelor's in Philosophy from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Ashley is also a dancer, choreographer, and dance teacher.



Tamara Williams
Cliffside Park, NJ

Tamara has managed youth music programs with arts organizations in NY, MI & NJ. She aims to refine program ideas for MBM, including a songwriting workshop for trauma survivors.



Bucky Willis
Detroit, MI

A native of Detroit, MI, Rebecca Willis received her Master of Architecture degree from the University of Detroit Mercy in 2012. She has over fourteen nicknames but most people call her “Bucky”. She has volunteered and worked for a number of non-profit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Detroit Future City and the Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC). The heart of her career and research lies at the point where architecture and design meet social issues and emotional impact. This career and research focus inspired her to create the concept of Bleeding Heart Design (b.h.d)- a design movement and non-profit that uses public art, architecture and design as conduits for social change.

Bucky hopes to transform a dilapidated commercial building into a roofless indoor-outdoor hybrid community space in her neighborhood.

She believes that artists, designers and architects should seek to improve humanity and solve social issues through design. Designers who embrace their social responsibilities are what she likes to call “design superheroes!”



Suzanne Wise
Wahkon, MN

Suzanne Wise is invested in her American Indian/Native American community. She is a strong advocate for Family Preservation, which is a voluntary case management program focusing on prevention work, advocacy, community action and cultural education through Mille Lacs Band Family Services where she is currently employed.

She has worked in Indian Education and the social work field most of her adult life. She was recently voted to be the Chairman of the Minnesota Indian Education Association for the second straight year by the Board of Directors.

The project she is proposing is to build a relationship based case management system utilizing Ojibwe culture and language which would entail classes that clients can choose from such as traditional arts of appliqué beading, ceremonial skirt making, powwow regalia projects, birchbark basket making and moving into contemporary art mediums such as acrylic painting classes, sketching, photography and other sources to choose from. These classes would be used to begin to build relationships and trust between the Family Services department and the families they work with who are in danger of out of home placements due to addiction issues, lack of parenting skills, truancy court interventions or who just need more support. These art mediums will be used to counsel, support, offer art as a healthy outlet and give these families hope in the midst of chaos.



Heidi Wright
Mesa, AZ

Heidi is a violinist with the Tetra String Quartet. After many years of teaching and performing she feels so fortunate to have found three other people who share my same passion and goals. For the last four years the quartet has been performing and teaching across the country and the world. From all they have seen and learned, they know they have the ability to make a real positive impact in communities. They are inspired by the movement of using art/music as a vehicle for social justice. With her string quartet, Heidi created a residency in a correctional facility. The quartet gives concerts and directs activities that help inmates develop creativity, communication, collaboration, and innovation.



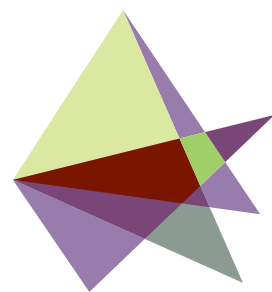
Hunter Wright
Minneapolis, MN

Hunter is Venture Innovation Director for the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, where she oversees projects and partnerships focused on audience engagement, globalization, and driving revenue. Under her leadership, the MIA will transform a Minneapolis city block into a hub and catalyst for multi-disciplinary creative exchange, connection and production. The space will host dynamic professionals across industries seeking to collaborate and produce innovative work of international excellence. Tech and media labs, co-working space, screening rooms, recording spaces, retail, a restaurant and test kitchen, performance space, artist residences, lecture halls, a gallery, hotel rooms, artist studios, and a large-scale exhibition or event space could all be incorporated into the 70,000sf footprint. Prior to the MIA, Hunter spent over a decade in New York City developing programs and exhibitions, driving strategic partnerships and new business development, and directing retail and communications for cultural institutions. She received an M.S. from Columbia University's GSAPP and a B.A. from The Colorado College.



Carol Zou
Philadelphia, PA

Carol is a Texangelena by way of the Chinese diaspora. Her work focuses on layered human geographies, craft as non-western cultural production, and polyvocality through a community organizing model. Her work ranges from facilitated community collaborations to more personally driven, conceptual works. Notable projects include Trans.lation, an arts and cultural platform initiated by Rick Lowe and commissioned by the Nasher Sculpture Center, located in the immigrant, refugee, African American, and Latinx neighborhood of Vickery Meadow, Dallas, Texas; Yarn Bombing Los Angeles, a collective ranging from 20 to 500 crafters that creates public art through crowdsourced, participatory models; and Michelada Think Tank, a multi-state alliance of creative workers of color that highlights the need for diversity in the creative fields. She is a 2017 inaugural University of Houston College of the Arts-Project Row Houses Fellow.



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NATIONAL ARTS STRATEGIES