

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY

2020 Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artists Virtual Retreat

Keynote Presenter



Michael O'Bryan
Founder
Humanature

Michael O'Bryan is an expert practitioner and budding researcher in the fields of community development, organizational culture, and human wellbeing. Mike has spent more than a decade working directly with resilient yet underserved populations — including veterans, adults in recovery, returning citizens, and families experiencing homelessness. He is currently an Innovation Fellow at Drexel University's Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation and also serves as Director of Learning at The Village of Arts and Humanities, a non-profit located in North Philadelphia. He is the founder of Humanature, a consultancy working with nonprofits, businesses, local government agencies and their employees to transform how they understand and support human development, interaction, and performance. Clients include NeighborWorks America, ArtistYear, New Jersey Community Capital, and The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. O'Bryan has spoken nationally about his work, including convenings at Cornell University, The Vera List Center for Arts and Politics at The New School, SPECTRUM/SOCAP, and the famed Apollo Theatre in New York. O'Bryan holds a Bachelor's degree in music from the University of the Arts and a graduate certificate in Childhood Trauma Studies from Jefferson University. He is a faculty member of the Career Studies Department at The Curtis Institute of Music and serves on The American Academy of Arts and Sciences' Commission on The Arts. He currently serves on the boards of two philanthropic institutions, The Samuel S. Fels Fund and The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, and is every day inspired by exploring the science of our humanity.

Workshop Presenters & Panelists

(In alphabetical order)



Matthew Adelberg
Fine Arts Department Chair, Equity Fellow
Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Baltimore City Public Schools

Matthew Adelberg is an artist and educator from Baltimore, Maryland. He received his BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art in 2015, and his MAT in 2016. He is currently the Visual Arts teacher, Fine Arts Department Chair, and Equity Fellow at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. Adelberg serves on the Fine Arts Leadership Team for Baltimore City Schools to help plan and facilitate district wide events, develop k12 sequential curriculum, plan and facilitate Professional Development for district arts

teachers, and develop equitable assessment tools. Adelberg is deeply passionate about art education as a social justice issue, and works collaboratively with students to develop relevant, emergent curriculum stemming from their lived experiences. To this end, he has presented about art education and Social Justice at the National Art Education Association convention in 2016 and 2017, the Maryland Art Education Association convention in 2018 and 2019, Florida State University & University of Georgia's Art Ed & Social Justice symposium in 2018, and 2020, and the Maryland Arts Summit in 2020. He also taught workshops on art and social justice at University of Georgia to their Pre-service art education students, and hosted workshops for Georgia Public School teachers on emergent social justice curriculum development. Adelberg was named a Maryland Teacher of Promise in 2015, MAEA Novice Teacher of the year in 2017, awarded the Samuel Glasner Creative Teaching Award in 2018, and nominated for Baltimore City Teacher of the Year in 2019.



Julia Basso, Ph.D.
Senior Research Associate
Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise
Center for Transformative Research on Health Behaviors
Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, Virginia Tech

Dr. Julia C. Basso is a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise at the Center for Transformative Research on Health Behaviors at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at Virginia Tech. As a neuroscientist, dancer, and yoga instructor, she is fascinated by the brain's capacity for plasticity and the body's ability to shape the brain. Her research focuses on understanding the embodied brain; that is, how physical activity and mindfulness practices such as exercise, dance, yoga, and meditation affect the brain functionally, physiologically, and morphologically. The long-term goal of this work to identify the mechanisms through which these mind-body practices optimize brain health and wellness.



Nicoletta Daríta de la Brown
Founder
Vida Magíca Love

Nicoletta Daríta de la Brown is a performance artist, interdisciplinary sculptor, filmmaker, and mother of four. She is Black Latinx; proud to be a first-generation Panamanian born in the United States. She is a chamána (shaman) and comes from a long line of healers. Her work reconceives the life of an artist as thriving, nourishing herself and others during and through her creative practice. Her vessel is both her canvas and the instrument she creates with. During her performances, she sculpts space with her body. She is motivated by the idea of the collective oneness; that all is interconnected. Art is not something that she does. Art is how she lives. Who she is. Works of art are handled with care. She loves herself gently, with kindness, and encourages others to do the same through her works of art.



Linda Carlton
Actor
CO/LAB Theater Group

Linda Carlton is an actor with CO/LAB Theater Group and has been a participant since 2012. Most recently, Linda was seen on stage in CO/LAB's original musical *Hidden Away*. In addition to performing, Linda was selected to participate in a program called CO/LAB:Leaders, where she serves as an artistic mentor, models positive leadership, and is an ambassador for the organization. She also was a Camp BlueLAB counselor for kids ages 9-13 with developmental disabilities. Linda loves acting, cooking, attending community events, movies and shopping.



Randall Coleman
Teaching Artist

Randall Coleman is a photographer and videographer native to Pittsburgh. He has a Masters of Science Degree in Media Arts and Technology and a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Journalism, both from Duquesne University. As a photographer and videographer, Randall focuses on capturing the character of Pittsburgh and its citizens. He has also traveled to Israel on behalf of the Cultural Trust and Classrooms Without Borders to photograph Israeli culture. His was included in the 2017 First Night and the January 2018 Cultural Trust Gallery Crawl. In 2017 he was a Three Rivers Arts Festival Emerging Artist. Randall hopes his photography will allow him to travel the world documenting and connecting with other cultures.



Ti Coleman
Facilitator, Comedian, Teacher

Ti Coleman is a seasoned facilitator, comedian and teacher. A Black genderqueer performer, he is dedicated to building spaces for black queer and trans* folks to come together, and share stories as a mechanism of healing and celebration. As a community artist, they teach students and organizations how to use art to facilitate change. They are a youth organizer and facilitator, creating the first youth team at Baltimore Improv Group, a site manager for Creative Alliance after school program, and a teaching artist with Young Audiences of Maryland. Ti is a founding member of the all Black improv group, *Casually Dope*, and has featured as a performer and teacher at improv festivals in Toronto, Chicago, New York, DC, and Philadelphia. Ti can be found randomly updating their IG @__tiology and website ticolleman.com



Lisa Donovan
Professor, Fine and Performing Arts Department
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Lisa Donovan is a Professor in the Fine and Performing Arts Department at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Previously she served as Director of the

Creative Arts in Learning Division at Lesley University and Associate Professor. Lisa has broad experience working as an arts educator and administrator in a variety of arts organizations including Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Berkshire Opera Company, Barrington Stage Company, Boston University's Theater, Visual Arts and Tanglewood Institutes and University of Massachusetts' Department of Theater. She also served as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Alliance for Arts Education. Lisa has published widely on arts integration and rural arts education. This includes her work as editor/author of a five-book series on arts integration published by Shell Education. Her rural research: *Leveraging Change: Increasing Access to Arts Education in Rural Areas* was featured by the National Endowment for the Arts. Her latest book, *Teacher as Curator*, is being published by Teachers College Press in October 2020. Lisa served as an advisory board member for the New England Consortium of Artist Educator Professionals and launched a yearly institute for teaching artists called Cultivating the Field that ran for five years.



Elaine Grogan-Luttrull
Founder
Minerva Financial Arts

Elaine Grogan Luttrull, CPA-PFS, AFC® is a financial educator who believes financial knowledge and habits can lead to creative empowerment. She leads Minerva Financial Arts, a company devoted to building financial literacy and empowerment in creative individuals through workshops and one-on-one advising. Her workshops have been featured nationally by funders, state and local arts councils, and colleges and universities that serve creative individuals. Elaine also teaches at the Columbus College of Art & Design, where she served as the Department Head for Business & Entrepreneurship from 2014-2018. Previously, Elaine served as the Director of Financial Analysis for The Juilliard School and in the Transaction Advisory Services practice of Ernst & Young in New York. She is the author of *Arts & Numbers* (Agate, B2 2013), and she contributed regularly to *Professional Artist* magazine. She is based in Columbus, Ohio where she serves on the boards of the Short North Alliance and Healing Broken Circles.



Javan Howard
TAP Lead Mentor
Community Word Project

Javan Howard is a poet and writer from Bronx, NY. He truly believes that the lived experience is the ultimate teaching tool and uses poetry as a social forum to foster discourse about love, culture, and identity. He has facilitated workshops across NYC. Javan is a Teaching Artist Project Lead Mentor and a Teaching Artist for Community-Word Project and Teachers & Writers Collaborative.



Ayanna Hudson
Director, Arts Education
National Endowment for the Arts

Ayanna N. Hudson is the director of Arts Education for the National Endowment for the Arts, where she presides over the grant portfolio devoted to arts education, works with national service organizations on policy initiatives, and serves as the spokesperson for arts education at the federal level. Hudson was the director of arts education with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission for more than ten years. She developed and led the implementation of the Arts for All collaborative, ensuring equitable access to arts education for 1.6 million students in the county's 81 school districts, the largest educational system in the country. Arts for All was cited in 2008 by the RAND Corporation as among the top three collaborations nationwide in its study *Revitalizing Arts Education through Community-wide Coordination*. In 2011, Arts for All received the Arts Education Award from the national service organization Americans for the Arts. Hudson is a sought-after expert in arts education having testified before the U.S. House of Representative's Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee and the Aspen Institute's Blue Ribbon Committee on the impact of No Child Left Behind. Prior to her work in Los Angeles, Hudson managed the School Arts Program at the Fulton County Department of Arts and Culture in Atlanta, Georgia. She has a BA in psychology from Spelman College and a specialized master's degree in education in risk and prevention from Harvard University.



Kasia Klimiuk
Director, Our Fabulous Variety Show
Education Manager, IlluminArt Productions
Teaching Artist

Kasia Klimiuk is a New York-based performance artist, teaching artist, director and arts administrator. She received her MA in Applied Theatre from the City University of New York and is recently received her NY State Certification in Theatre at the City College of New York. Kasia has been performing in various mediums for over 20 years, as an improviser, actor, dancer, and singer. Over the last ten years, she has been working as a director and producer with her own theatre company, Our Fabulous Variety Show (OFVS), which she co-founded with Anita Boyer in October 2010. The company has produced over 26 theatrical productions and small showcases throughout the eastern end of Long Island since its inception, with both Kasia's choreography and direction. She has also co-written six original plays with OFVS. The theatre company has been awarded as the Best Theatre Group on the South Fork of Long Island by Dan's Papers from 2013 to 2018 and continues to create original theatre and provide educational programming to youth each year. Since December 2019, she has been the Education Manager at IlluminArt Productions, managing the arts programming and residencies in Staten Island schools and reviewing the curriculum of teaching artists and is the Teeny Awards Coordinator for East End Arts, the Tony Award of high school theatre on eastern Long Island. She also works at Gordon Brothers as an inventory appraiser; and as a teaching artist with New York City Children's Theater, IlluminArt Productions, Wingspan Arts, Marquis Studios and Imaginarium Theater Collective, an educational theater company she co-founded in 2017 with Sarah Law. She has a great deal of experience devising original work and facilitating theater programs for young people aged pre-k to 12 as well as with adults. Since the start of COVID-19, she has been adapting her theatrical workshops and classes to

virtual settings, developing and reviewing remote curriculum with teaching artists, and produced three virtual variety shows presented on Zoom with her theatre company.



Julie Kline
Education Associate
Lifetime Arts

Founded in 2008, [Lifetime Arts](#) is a nonprofit arts service organization whose mission it is to: encourage creative aging by promoting the inclusion of professional arts programs in organizations that serve older adults; prepare artists to develop the creative capacity of older adult learners; and foster lifelong learning in and through the arts by increasing opportunities for participation in community based programming. Julie Kline is the Education Associate at Lifetime, where she co-facilitates trainings across the country, assists with the design and development of training curriculum, and supports all of Lifetime Arts' education efforts. Julie is a New York City-based director, actor, and writer with a special focus on the creation of original theater work with older adults, as well as intergenerational theater projects. Julie was awarded multiple years of NYC's SPARC/SU-CASA grant to develop original theater works based on the lives of Manhattan seniors, in collaboration with oral historian Liza Zapol. She was previously Program and Training Director for creative aging pioneer organization Elders Share the Arts, Artistic Associate of Roots&Branches Theater, and an inaugural grantee of the Brooklyn Arts Council's Victor/Weiss Cultural Entrepreneur Fund, supporting leading women in the arts and arts administration.



Alysia Lee
Coordinator of Fine Arts
Maryland State Department of Education

Alysia Lee is a 2019-2020 Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow and the education program supervisor for Fine Arts education for the Maryland State Department of Education where she shares her vision of statewide equity and excellence across five arts disciplines: music, dance, visual arts, theatre, and media arts. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of Sister Cities Girlchoir (SCG), the El Sistema-inspired, girl empowerment, choral academy in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey. Recent performances include Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, The Kimmel Center, Philadelphia Orchestra under the baton of Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and throughout the local community. Recognitions include awards from The Kennedy Center, The Knight Foundation, National Association of University Women, Stockton Bartol Foundation, and Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Recent speaking/facilitation engagements include the U.S. Department of Education, The Kennedy Center, Americans for the Arts, Arts Education Partnership, Chorus America, Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, TEDX, and Temple University. She is the Maryland representative for the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE). Lee is a Board member of Chorus America.



Krystal Lee
Educator, Creator

Krystal Lee is a serial experimenter, skills gatherer and lifelong learner. She was born in Kingston, Jamaica to parents who taught her the value of education and financial independence and how entrepreneurship can be a path to both. Krystal's life is about helping people get where they want to be. She is an educator by training who finds fulfillment in using her unique combination of skills to create value. Krystal lives at the intersection of creativity, education and generosity; most recently leveraging her skills and personal network to make free facemasks for healthcare workers and first responders. When she's not teaching, learning or creating, Krystal can be found watching reruns of the West Wing, eating good food and laughing until she cries.



Miko Lee
Interim Executive Director
Teaching Artists Guild

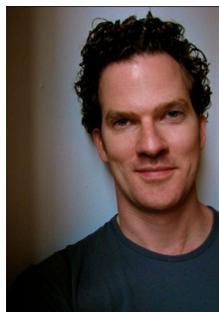
Miko Lee is Executive Director of Teaching Artist Guild and hosts a weekly radio show on KPFA. She was Executive Director of Youth in Arts, where she created the Digital Toolkit and Arts BANK. Formerly Director of Art and Education at East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, where she designed and directed Learning Without Borders, recipient of three U.S. Department of Education Model Arts Awards. Miko developed arts education programs for the Bay Area Discovery Museum and the National Park Services Rosie the Riveter project. She was a member of the Advisory Panel for the National Endowment for the Arts Professional Development for Arts Education. Miko has presented at numerous national arts conferences and her arts integration curricula is being replicated around the country. Her expressive arts curricula created with STAND! Against Domestic Violence received multiple awards. Miko also served as Artistic Director of Theatre of Yugen and Artistic Associate at Berkeley Repertory Theatre and San Jose Repertory's Red Ladder Company where she directed and created original productions. Miko's extensive background in theatre, as a performer, choreographer and director, include shows at American Conservatory Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Seattle Repertory Theatre and New York's Public Theatre.



Lisa Liebering
Manager of School and Community Programs
Pittsburgh Cultural Trust

Lisa Liebering is a professional theatrical designer, puppeteer, and teaching artist with more than twenty-five years of experience. In her recent position as the Manager of School and Community Programs for the Education Department of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, her work focused on arts integration residencies and professional development events for educators and teaching artists. Throughout her career, she has taught in a variety of settings, including public/private schools, correctional institutions, universities, and community centers. She also has an active career as an artist, with some of her notable production credits including, designing and constructing Weber State University's touring production of Peter Rabbit, creating the original mascot for the NFL's Carolina Panthers, and serving as Resident designer and costume shop manager for the Children's Theatre of

Charlotte. Lisa holds a BFA in Puppetry/Children's Theatre from West Virginia University, a MA in Theatre for Youth from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a MA in Theatre from the University of Pittsburgh.



Patrick Lovejoy
Programs Manager
Magic Box Productions

Patrick Lovejoy has served as Magic Box's Programs Manager since 2019. As Programs Manager he has worked closely with teachers, teaching artists, and administrators to assist in the transition process of adapting Magic Box's residencies for remote learning. Since the lockdown began in NYC, he has collaborated with various members of the Magic Box team to create, design and upload weekly remote lesson plans and content resources for NYC's Office of Arts and Special Projects. He strongly believes in the power of arts education and has served as a teaching artist for various organizations throughout his career. He is also the founder and creative director of Elastic Shore: a unique multimedia company that integrates art, design, and live performance using cutting-edge technologies.



Rob McAdams
Director of Partners in the Arts and Adjunct Assistant Professor
University of Richmond School of Professional & Continuing Studies

Rob McAdams, MFA, is the Director of Partners in the Arts and Adjunct Assistant Professor, both at the University of Richmond. He has developed and taught creativity and arts integration courses, workshops, and training sessions on the regional, national, and international – levels. He is currently Principal Investigator on a 4-year, \$1.3 mil grant from the US Department of Education in partnership with Richmond Public Schools. The focus of his research is to promote student-centered, culturally-responsive instructional practices by increasing collaboration among classroom teachers, arts teachers, community arts and cultural professionals, and arts/cultural organizations. Prior to his current position, he was Richmond Director for Young Audiences of Virginia, adjunct faculty in the VCU Art Foundations department, and served as a director and president of the board of 1708 Gallery. His art-making and instructional practices have always been about inclusion and wonder, striving to find ways to engage all humans through curiosity-provoking objects, performances, and interactions.



Hector Morales
Master Teaching Artist
Institute of Music for Children

For the past 15 years drummer and percussionist Hector Morales, has combined national and international performances with his work in the field of arts education. As a Master TA, Hector has taught countless music residencies (K-12) and PDs through leading arts organizations in the tri-state area. He has designed innovative music residencies in World Percussion, Digital Songwriting, Dual Language, between others. He received the "2015 Artist Of The Year" award from YA NJEP. As an

Adjunct Professor he is currently teaching a course on Latin music at WPU. His credits include leading PDs for educators in conferences such as F2F, aTi, The NJMEA State Conference and, CLAEM. He has also served as grant panelist for the LMCC, NJSCA and BAC. Hector is the author of the "The Afro-Peruvian Percussion Ensemble"- Instructional book/DVD published by Sher Music Co, nominated in the "Best Educational Book of 2014" category by Modern Drummer Magazine. He has performed on international stages as the Lincoln Center, Smithsonian Folk Festival (US), The National Museum of Peru (Peru), the "Society of Musicians and Composers of Chile" (Chile), "Festival du Monde Arabe" (Canada), and Jerusalem Music Festival (Israel-Palestine). Hector currently performs with influential ensembles of the Afro-Peruvian jazz scene including Yuri Juarez Afroperuano, and The Afro-Peruvian Ensemble (directed by Morales).



Phritz Napoleon
Student
Institute of Music for Children

I am a graduating senior from East Orange STEM Academy. This fall, I will be attending William Paterson University majoring in Communications. Throughout my high school career, I have been involved in numerous clubs and extracurricular activities that have gifted me with experiences to mold me into the personable, thoughtful and outgoing young man I am today. From freshman year to junior year, I ran varsity track for the East Orange Campus Jaguars. Running track taught me the importance of accountability and really showed me what it meant to be a part of a team. Moreover, from sophomore year on, I was a member of the Sigma Beta club, which is sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. In this club I served as Secretary and President. I assisted in mentoring younger students while also being mentored by other Sigma Men within the school district. This experience taught me a lot about character, because I was not only representing myself, but my mentors and my fellow club members. Furthermore, I have had the pleasure of not only attending but working for the Institute of Music as a youth leader. This role requires me to help teach various arts to students such as acting and music production while also mentoring them and providing a safe and responsible support system. This role has taught me the importance of community and how important it is for others to have a stable support system. When not in school, working or volunteering, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, traveling, listening to music, playing and watching sports.



Jeff Poulin
Managing Director
Creative Generation

Jeff M. Poulin is an American scholar, non-profit administrator, and social entrepreneur whose work is grounded in social justice and seeks transformative solutions to the world's greatest challenges. Jeff founded Creative Generation, which works to inspire, connect, and amplify the work of organizations and individuals committed to cultivating the creative capacities of young people. With over a decade of experience as a performer, teaching artist, education researcher, and arts administrator, he previously led a national program, where he worked to advance local, state, and federal policies supportive of equitable access to arts education throughout the United States. Jeff is widely published, serves as a reviewer for grant and research panels, and speaks to audiences across the country and

around the globe. Jeff hails from Portland, Maine and studied arts management, cultural policy, and education at Oklahoma City University, University College Dublin, and the University of Glasgow.



Kylie Proudfoot-Payne
Teaching Artist
ArtsBank, Inc.

Born and raised in West Virginia, Kylie draws artistic inspiration from the light and changes of the landscape. Although she describes herself primarily as a landscape painter, Kylie explores a variety of different media for creative expression. As a teaching artist with ArtsBank Inc. she focuses on teaching the elements of art while integrating science and perceptual skills in the elementary classrooms. Her teaching artistry is developed further while working with young artists to create custom fabric sculptures through her website, www.drawntohold.com, where she has developed sensitivity to working with children's drawing to replicate their designs in sculpture form that integrates well in the educational setting. Currently she is exploring the art of collaborating with performing artists as the surfaces themselves for the painting not only as the subject matter while investigating the transitory nature of the art experience. Kylie has a BA in psychology, human services and art education from Davis & Elkins college and resides in her hometown of Belington WV, with her family.



Katie Rainey
Teaching Artist and Director of Teaching Artist Project
Community Word Project

Katie Rainey is a Teaching Artist and Director of the Teaching Artist Project at Community-Word Project, where she trains artists to become educators. She has been a teaching artist for over 10 years, and has taught poetry, fiction, theatre, photography, English as a second language and filmmaking in various parts of the world. For the last five years, Katie has been teaching at The Young Women's Leadership School of Queens, working with their 9th grade students on creative writing and using their art-making for activism. Katie is a writer and editor who has been published in numerous literary journals and has received several awards for her writing. Katie also serves on the NYC Arts in Education Roundtable Teaching Artist Affairs Committee, and was a part of the 2018 New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) Emerging Leaders Boot Camp.



Danilo Randijc-Coleman
Teaching Artist
Magic Box Productions

Danilo Randijc-Coleman is a filmmaker and musician who has been a Teaching Artist with Magic Box Productions since 2011. He began his work with young people with a focus in documentary film, and has since expanded his repertoire to include stop motion animation, video art, and podcasting, among others. Over the last 9 years, he has completed over 50 residencies, both in school and after school, in every borough in New York City, and with students of all backgrounds, educational levels, and ages. After the COVID pandemic struck NYC in March,

Danilo transitioned into online teaching, and has spearheaded an asynchronous stop motion course with students at IS 75 in Staten Island. Students in that class have independently created over 30 short stop motion videos under Danilo's guidance.



S. Rasheem
Artist, Scholar

S. Rasheem (known for saying just call me Rasheem) is a self-taught mixed-media, community artist. Her mediums are pencil, various types of pastel, and charcoal. Rasheem describes herself as a Womanist Artist whose art encourages a critical examination of society and culture through the lens of race, gender, sexuality, and class. Her work centralizes the lives and experiences of marginalized populations. In addition to being a visual artist, Rasheem is also a DEI workshop facilitator, an independent published scholar, a muralist, program manager, host of the Counter-Narrative show, and an education director. She has practiced the art of side hustles for over a decade. Her scholarship can be found at www.shvillarasheem.com and her art can be found at www.artbyrasheem.com. You can catch previous episodes of the Counter-Narrative show at <http://thecounternarrativeshow.com/> you can watch LIVE Saturdays at 6PM EST by clicking here to join the Counter-Narrative show community. S. Rasheem / iam@shvillarasheem.com IG: @artbyRasheem



Rachel Rugh
Founder
New River Moving Arts

Rachel Rugh is a dancer, teacher, mover and shaker currently based in Blacksburg, Virginia. Her choreographic work has been featured at Velocity Dance Center (Seattle), the Seattle International Dance Festival, Movement Research (New York City), the Washington, D.C. Capital Fringe Festival, and the Virginia Tech Moss Arts Center. Rachel is also a founding member of Mountain Empire Performance Collective, a long-distance dance company dedicated to alternative processes of making work while separated by both time and space. Rachel is a joyful and enthusiastic movement educator. She directs the summer residential dance program at the Virginia Governor's School for Performing Arts and Humanities, and in 2020 she founded New River Moving Arts, a dance school and performing company committed to affordable, accessible creative dance training for all ages. She is an adjunct faculty member at Radford University and Virginia Tech, as well as the recipient of the 2017-2018 Dr. Robert L.A. Keeley Healing Arts Residency at the Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, where she provided therapeutic movement experiences for patients, staff, and visitors. Rachel holds a Bachelor's degree in dance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a Master of Fine Arts in dance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



Abby Schreer
Director of Programs and Operations and Teaching Artist
CO/LAB Theater Group

Abby Schreer is originally from Arlington Heights, IL and has been living in NYC for 10 years. She is the Director of Programs and Operations (and a Teaching Artist!) for CO/LAB Theater Group, a non-profit dedicated to providing individuals with developmental disabilities a creative and social outlet through theater arts. Previously, Abby has worked at Broadway Bound Kids, the NYC DOE Office of Arts and Special Projects, AKA NYC, a marketing and advertising agency for Broadway and cultural clients, and The Shubert Organization. Abby serves on the Teaching Artist Affairs committee for the Arts in Education Roundtable and her writing has been published in the Teaching Artist Guild's Quarterly Magazine. She holds a Masters Degree in Educational Theater from New York University and a BS in Communication from Boston University. When she's not busy with theater, Abby loves to travel, cook, play board games, find a good coffee shop, and spend time with family and friends.



Hayley Sherwood
Program Manager
CO/LAB Theater Group

Hayley Sherwood is a California-born, NYC-based theatre artist, whose work focuses on returning the art of theatre back to the people. This belief has led her to her role as Programs Manager at CO/LAB Theater Group, a non-profit organization dedicated to offering people with developmental disabilities a creative and social outlet through theater arts. For the past 4 years, she has produced COMMUNITY WORKS, a community-engaged theatre program at Williamstown Theatre Festival that casts local residents (most of whom are first-time actors between the ages of 5 and 95) in a giant, new, professional musical that is performed for thousands of Berkshires residents. She holds her BFA in Theatre Arts from Boston University and her MA in Educational Theatre for Colleges and Communities from NYU. She is a teaching artist with Opening Act, a member of the Middle Voice, a company in residence at Rattlestick Playwright's Theater, and a Story Pirate!



Alysia Souder
Executive Director
Institute of Music for Children

Alysia Souder is the Executive Director of The Institute of Music for Children in Elizabeth, NJ and has over 25 years of experience in arts education. As a teaching artist, she has worked for organizations across New Jersey including Arts Horizons, Playwrights Theatre, Papermill Playhouse and the NJ Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) teaching acting and playwriting. She is passionate about the role the arts should play in young people's growth and development and bringing the arts to under-served youth has been central to her work. Ms. Souder serves as the Chair of the collective impact organization Arts Ed Newark – an alliance of 50+ arts education stakeholders. Ms. Souder is also an international presenter, having been featured at education conferences in Guatemala, Germany and South Africa.



Olu Butterfly Woods
Interim Executive Director
DewMore Baltimore

Lyrical visionary and flying African, Olu Butterfly Woods is director of DewMore Baltimore, an organization using art to promote civic engagement in marginalized communities and founding co-director of Free Up Village Community Supported Education which focuses on African S.T.E.A.M. edutainment spaces, such as The Children's Imagination Ball at Light City. Born in Nigeria, raised in St. Croix, and Baltimore, she was raised immersed in African traditions and art, especially as a touring principle dancer with Sankofa Dance Theater. She has also led cultural immersion experiences for Baltimore youth to Ghana, West Africa as the Creative Director of Afrikan Youth Alchemy. For over two decades Olu has been an educator and teaching artist at schools across Baltimore. A bold and activating curator, Olu has produced a popular artist-development series Organic Soul Tuesdays, a major afrofuturist Artscape anchor project, and the B-stage at AFRAM. Olu Butterfly was cast in the record-breaking world premier musical Marley at Centerstage and has toured internationally with the band Fertile Ground and independently as a distinctive performance poet and author, sharing the stage with legendary artists such as Hugh Masekela, The Last Poets, Mos Def and Erykah Badu.



The 2020 Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artists Virtual Retreat is a cosponsored project of the [Delaware Division of the Arts](#), [Maryland State Arts Council](#), [New Jersey State Council on the Arts](#), [New York State Council on the Arts](#), [Pennsylvania Council on the Arts](#), [Virginia Commission for the Arts](#), and [West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History](#) in partnership with the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) and the [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#).