



Speaker and Facilitator Biographies

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Thursday Afternoon Briefings, September 15



Dr. Jane Best
Director
Arts Education Partnership

Dr. Jane Best has extensive experience working among practitioners, policymakers and researchers. She previously held leadership positions at McREL International, Learning Point Associates (now American Institutes for Research) and the National Conference of State Legislatures. She started her career in education as a high school French and ESL teacher in Columbus, Ohio. Best has served on the board of directors of Knowledge Alliance and the STEM Education Coalition, trade associations that advocate for federal funding for education research and development. She also served on the board of governors for the College of Education at The Ohio State University. Best holds a B.A. from Indiana University, a M.A. from The Ohio State University and a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University.



Kelly Brown
Director
D5 Coalition

Kelly Brown is director of the D5 Coalition, a five-year effort to increase philanthropy's diversity, equity and inclusiveness. Prior to this she was principal consultant at Viewpoint Consulting, which provides program design, planning, research and facilitation services to nonprofits, philanthropic organizations and individuals investing resources to strengthen underserved communities. Brown has served as director of programs and evaluation at Marguerite Casey Foundation, which invests up to \$30 million annually in organizations working to strengthen the voice and capacity of low-income families, and as grants director at the Vanguard Public Foundation, where she designed, launched and managed three new grantmaking programs. Brown was director of marketing and industry relations at OpNet, an innovative nonprofit that created digital workforce opportunities for low-income young adults. She also served as administrative

director for TransAfrica, a national foreign policy organization at the forefront of efforts to secure a peaceful transition to a multiracial democracy in South Africa and helped coordinate Nelson Mandela's inaugural visit to the United States. Brown has lived and studied in Nairobi, Kenya where she conducted outreach, due diligence and fundraising to build and expand Kenya Women Finance Trust, one of the continent's first microloan funds for women. She has served on the Executive Committee and as executive director of Bay Area Blacks in Philanthropy, on the board of the Funding Exchange and is currently on the board of the Center for Community Change. She has an M.B.A from the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley, a B.A. in sociology from UC Santa Barbara and was a Sloan Foundation Fellow at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School. Brown is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, researching the intersection between leadership, organizational networks and contemporary social movements.



Christian Gaines
Executive Director
ArtPrize

Christian Gaines was born in Brussels, Belgium, to American parents and raised in the United Kingdom until he came to the United States to attend Vassar College, and stayed. In 1988, Gaines joined the American Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival, serving as its administrative director for six years. In 1994, he was appointed film programmer at the Sundance Film Festival, programming the 1995 and 1996 festivals. From 1996 to 2000, he served as festival director for the Hawai'i International Film Festival, responsible for its management and programming. From 2000 to 2008, Gaines served as director of festivals at the American Film Institute, where he led several film festival projects, including AFI FEST in Los Angeles. In 2008, he joined IMDb.com, an Amazon.com company, where he focused on the global expansion of Withoutabox.com, a film submission platform connecting filmmakers to film festivals worldwide. In April 2013, Gaines joined ArtPrize as executive director. ArtPrize is a radically open, independently organized international art competition, annually attracting more than 400,000 attendees and 1,500 artists to Grand Rapids, Michigan. \$500,000 is awarded to artists, decided equally by expert jury and public vote.



Margaret Hunt
Director
Colorado Creative Industries

Margaret Hunt became director of Colorado Creative Industries in 2013. She had directed the Utah Division of Arts and Museums since 2005. Prior to this position, she served as director of community and economic development for Salt Lake City government; manager of economic development programs for PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power Company; director of the International Microfinance Training Program at Naropa University; and vice president of a Utah based fundraising consulting group for nonprofit organizations. She has received leadership awards including the governor's leadership award, Utah Small Cities, Inc., for contributions to community and economic development; Pathfinder service award, Salt Lake Area Chamber of Commerce; Governor's Helping Hands Award for corporate volunteer programs in Utah schools; and United Way's Volunteer of the Year award. Hunt is a visual artist with work hanging in the Salt Lake City International Airport. She attended the University of Utah in Salt Lake City and Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado.



Sheri Jarvis
Montana Artrepreneur Program Director
Montana Arts Council

Sheri Jarvis is a potter, painter and mixed media commission artist with a B.A. in organizational development and a minor in fine art from Montana State University – Billings. Her professional experience ranges from small business ownership to the executive director position at a nonprofit domestic violence program. Jarvis has been involved with the Montana Artrepreneur Program as a student and coach for three years.



Lori Meadows
Executive Director
Kentucky Arts Council

Lori Meadows has served as executive director of the Kentucky Arts Council since 2005. Prior to that appointment she served as executive staff advisor, overseeing program and organizational management of the agency. An arts council staff member since 1997, Meadows also served as individual artist program director and as technical assistance coordinator. Prior to her tenure with the council she directed the Kentucky Save Outdoor Sculpture! and the Kentucky Textile programs, and owned and operated an historic textile consulting business.

Meadows has served on numerous public art advisory committees including the Federal Art-in-Architecture Program, the Smithsonian Institute, the Capitol Centennial Commission, The Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Louisville Arena Authority. She also has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and other state arts agencies. She serves on the boards of South Arts, the Kentucky Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and the Flight 5191 Memorial Commission and is on the Kentucky Film Commission Advisory Committee. Meadows earned her bachelor of arts degree in history and textiles from the University of Kentucky and her associate of arts degree in design from Midway College.



Randall Rosenbaum
Executive Director
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts

Randall Rosenbaum is the executive director of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, a position he has held since 1995. From 1984 to 1995, Rosenbaum served in a variety of capacities at the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, including deputy director and director of the Dance and Presenting Organizations programs. He has a bachelor of music education degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, and has managed orchestras and nonprofit arts organizations in Florida,

Georgia, North Carolina and Ohio. Rosenbaum has served as a site visitor and panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts in the dance, theatre, musical theatre/opera and state and regional programs, and as a panelist for the state arts agencies of New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Connecticut and Massachusetts, as well as for the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, the Heinz Endowment of Pittsburgh, and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture in Cleveland, Ohio. He has taught arts administration courses, classes and seminars at Brown University and Rhode Island College. He serves on the board of the New England Foundation for the Arts. A practicing musician, Rosenbaum has sung professionally in churches and synagogues, and with performing ensembles throughout the East Coast.



Traci Slater-Rigaud
Director

National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards

Traci Slater-Rigaud directs the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards with the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities through a cooperative agreement with NASAA. The awards are the nation's highest honors for after-school and out-of-school programs that use the arts and humanities to enrich the lives of at-risk children. Slater-Rigaud is the former program coordinator for arts in education with the National PTA, where she managed the Reflections Program. Prior to the National PTA, she was curator of education at Miami Art Museum. Her work there included developing and managing a

broad range of educational programming for school, family and adult audiences. Slater-Rigaud's background also includes work as the public programs manager at the Baltimore Museum of Art, where she created and managed large-scale programs for the permanent collection and special exhibitions. She has several years of experience in community based arts education and has a sincere passion for making the arts accessible to all communities. She holds a B.S. in social science and an M.A. in art education, both from the University of Cincinnati.



David T. Slatery
Deputy Director
Massachusetts Cultural Council

Dave Slatery came to the arts after working to provide affordable housing for artists in his role as general counsel and deputy director of MassDevelopment, the state's economic development authority. Over the past 30 years, Slatery has served in many roles in state agencies, served on the boards of several community arts organizations, and privately practiced finance and real estate law. In those roles, he acquired a strong interest in supporting the creative economy and arts based redevelopment. Slatery has been associated with the law firms of Bingham, Dana & Gould and Brann & Isaacson, the Massachusetts Port

Authority, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, L/A Arts, the local arts agency of Lewiston-Auburn, Maine, the Fort Point Cultural Coalition and YouthBuild USA, a youth development nonprofit network.



Rick Sperling
Founder and President
Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit

Rick Sperling has been a dynamic force for youth and arts in Detroit for more than 20 years. As founder of the internationally acclaimed Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, Sperling was named a 2008 Michiganian of the Year by the Detroit News for "inspiring self-discipline, a sense of teamwork and high personal standards in thousands of Metro Detroit children." As a result of his work with Mosaic, Sperling received the Detroit Free Press award for Lifetime Achievement in Theatre. Under Sperling's leadership, Mosaic was named Best-Managed Nonprofit by Crain's Detroit Business in 2006.



Ryan Stubbs
Research Director
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Ryan Stubbs oversees NASAA's data collection and research services. In this role, he directs NASAA's tracking of public funding for the arts and its work as the national repository of state arts agency grant-making data. He assists NASAA members with customized research, including creative economy programs, place-making initiatives and assessment of cultural district programs. Stubbs represents state arts agencies and NASAA at state, regional and NASAA research forums and is NASAA's primary research liaison to federal agencies, foundations, consultants and scholars conducting research on public support for the arts. In his prior position, Stubbs served as director of research for the Western States Arts Federation, where he conducted analysis of arts related economic data and implemented web based research tools. He has analyzed capital construction projects for the Colorado Department of Higher Education and has managed economic development programs in Adams County, Colorado. He holds master's degrees in public administration and urban and regional planning from the University of Colorado, Denver. In his free time, Stubbs enjoys creating and supporting music and visual art in Washington, D.C.



Sarah Gonzales Triplett
Director of Public Policy
Creative Many Michigan

Sarah Gonzales Triplett strategically directs advocacy and public policy initiatives, leads research, communications, education, grass-roots organizing and coalition building to advance policies and sustainable funding to build support for the arts, culture, arts education and the creative industries at the state and federal level. Her focus includes promoting the contributing impacts of the arts and creativity as a strategic asset in Michigan's communities, economic vitality and education. Triplett is leading efforts to launch the Michigan Legislative Creative Caucus a bipartisan group of lawmakers that will convene to advance a seven-part agenda focused on the creative economy, creative talent, creative education, creative place making, tourism, trade missions and export opportunities, and investment in the state's arts, cultural and creative assets. Triplett leads the development of the Creative State Michigan Nonprofit report, which uses DataArts information to demonstrate the impact Michigan's nonprofit arts and cultural organizations bring to the state's economy, the vibrancy of its communities, the education of its children and audiences of all ages. Triplett leads 1 of 10 state teams selected by Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education, administering a three-year pilot program to strengthen arts education by advancing state policy. She serves as a member of the State Arts Advocacy Network (SAAN) for Americans for the Arts and was elected to serve on the SAAN Council for a three-year term beginning in 2014-15. She joined Creative Many Michigan in 2013. Triplett earned her bachelor of arts degree in communications and political science at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. She serves as the current chair of the East Lansing Arts Commission and on the executive board of the Junior League of Lansing.



Beth Tuttle
President and CEO
DataArts

Beth Tuttle is founding president and CEO of DataArts. She has more than 25 years of experience as a strategist, management consultant and organizational leader in the cultural, philanthropic, advocacy, and corporate sectors. Tuttle founded and served as managing director of METStrategies, LLC, a strategic consulting firm specializing in leadership development, strategic and business planning, communications, and branding for social benefit organizations. Her clients have included museums, public arts agencies, private foundations and on-line media services, seeking to achieve greater mission impact, deepen stakeholder engagement or undertake significant organizational transformation. Tuttle served as deputy director and chief of external relations and planning for the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and as senior vice president for communications for The Freedom Forum and Newseum. She began her career in the cultural sector working with the Atlanta Civic Opera. In the corporate sector Tuttle worked in advertising and marketing with DMB&B and the Goldberg-Marchesano Agency. A graduate of Brown University, she is coauthor of *Magnetic: The Art and Science of Engagement* (American Alliance of Museums Press). In 2010 through 2012 she was a visiting professional for Georgetown University's Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership. She was an arts commissioner for the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and a member of the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington's board of directors. Currently, Tuttle is a member of The Museum Group and serves on the board of advisors for the National Center for Arts Research at Southern Methodist University.

Friday Afternoon Seminars, September 16



Angela Bryant, J.D.
Senior Consultant and Cofounder
VISIONS Inc.

Angela Bryant has more than 30 years of legal experience and was a North Carolina state administrative law judge for 10 years. Bryant has been consulting to and training individuals and organizations in applying principles of justice to interpersonal problem solving and organizational development for more than 25 years. She particularly focuses on the areas of inclusive diversity, community economic development, managing transitions, collaborative problem solving, meeting facilitation, internalized "isms," train-the-trainer models and global inclusion issues. Bryant is currently a fifth-term North Carolina state legislator. She earned her J.D. (law) at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She has 12 years of experience in university governance on the UNC-Chapel Hill board and trustees and the UNC system board of governors. Bryant is experienced in providing training and consultation services to arts and government agencies.



Eric Giles
Learning Services Manager
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Eric Giles manages a diverse portfolio of learning services for NASAA members. His responsibilities include coordinating NASAA's virtual learning programs, such as its highly successful web seminars; assisting with the design and delivery of conference sessions; leading the popular Flashes of Inspiration sessions at NASAA's national assemblies; and administering other in-person learning opportunities for state arts agencies. He joined NASAA in 2008. He is a trained visual artist in a wide variety of mediums and is continually working on projects from gallery shows to graphic novels. At night, Giles teaches fine arts classes

as an adjunct faculty member at the College of Southern Maryland.



Liza Puzon, D.T. Psy.
Consultant
VISIONS Inc.

Lisa Puzon is passionate about the arts, education and diversity. An Asian immigrant in the 1970s, she was inspired by the African and African-American artists who fought to express their culture despite lack of acceptance and persevered to celebrate their authentic selves. Puzon taught art in public high school, and was selected for Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 2002, a national award based on a

recommendation from a successful former student for having made a positive impact in her life. She has taken part in many projects and workshops using visual arts as a means to empower and educate low-wealth communities and celebrate the creative and scientific contributions of people of color. Puzon holds a doctorate degree in transpersonal psychology and integrates art and psychology to counsel, educate and empower children, adults, couples and families of diverse cultural, social and religious backgrounds. Her strong belief in empowerment and equity led her to work with VISIONS, where she has been a consultant since 2006.



Dr. Cindy Todd
Program Chair, Art Education
Kendall College of Art & Design of FSU
Vice President
National Art Education Association

Before becoming a professor, Cindy Todd taught K-12 art in the Michigan public schools for more than 14 years, teaching at elementary, middle and high school levels. A former MAEA president, Todd was the recipient of MAEA's 2015 Teacher of the Year, the NAEA's Student Chapter Sponsor Award of Excellence, and the Rochester Public School's

Secondary Teacher of the Year awards. She has presented keynote addresses at many conferences including Minnesota, Arkansas, Missouri and Ohio Art Education associations; has presented at many Michigan and NAEA conventions and has provided professional development for teachers across the state of Michigan. Todd is currently a key contributor in the creation of the GRPS Museum School, an award winning, design-thinking/place based school in Grand Rapids.



Stephanie Wade
Former Director
Innovation Lab @ OPM

Stephanie Wade led the Innovation Lab @ OPM in applying and teaching human-centered design across the government to deliver innovative services, programs and products that help solve complex public and cross-sector challenges. Prior to this role, Wade led domestic and international organizations through the human-centered design process to improve their performance and innovation capabilities. She spent several years at Booz Allen Hamilton serving as a strategy and performance management expert, and helped stand up and build a human-centered design practice. Wade was a member of the leadership team for Design Thinking DC (DT:DC), and has additional experience working at the United States Government Accountability Office, as a political consultant, as a national grass-roots political organizer, as a public policy expert in state government and as a business and development specialist in nonprofits. She holds a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, a practitioner's certificate in design thinking, coaching and facilitation from the Austin Center for Design, and a bachelor's degree from Boston College with an honors concentration in sociology and minor in studio arts.

Saturday Morning Workshops, September 16



Kelly Barsdate
Chief Program and Planning Officer
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Kelly Barsdate joined NASAA in 1991. She oversees NASAA's services to members, including all research activities, education programs and special initiatives. She runs NASAA's State Arts Agency Boot Camps, designs the association's web seminars and conferences, and conducts numerous workshops on topics such as cultural policy and funding trends, arts participation, public value and practical evaluation methods. Barsdate developed NASAA's New Directions in State Arts Agency Grantmaking curriculum, a series of workshops to help state arts agencies enhance the results of their grant investments.

In addition to managing NASAA's internal strategic planning, Barsdate often is engaged as a consultant to assist arts funders (both public and private) with strategic planning, program design, grant guidelines development and program evaluation. She has managed collaborations with partners including the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Center for Charitable Statistics, Grantmakers in the Arts, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Princeton University, Altria and the National Endowment for the Arts. Barsdate has authored numerous monographs and articles on arts funding and arts research. She is a frequent presenter at national arts and philanthropy conferences and is a contributing editor of the *Journal of Arts Management, Law and Society*. Prior to joining NASAA, Barsdate was a researcher at Educational Research Services Inc., where her areas of specialty included school demographics, multicultural education and program evaluation. Her arts background includes education in music, dance and ceramics. Born and raised in Alaska, Barsdate is an avid amateur naturalist.



Chandra Boyd
Arts Learning in Communities Director
Oklahoma Arts Council

Chandra Boyd administers grant programs and initiatives designed to support Oklahoma community based arts education, with additional outreach to underrepresented populations including older adults and veterans. Previously, she worked in the field of museum education for 15 years, with positions at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art and the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Boyd holds bachelor of arts degrees in art history and French, and earned a master of liberal arts degree in art history and a master of business administration

degree in marketing.



Pam Breaux
Chief Executive Officer
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Pam joined NASAA as CEO in 2015. As chief executive officer, she works in collaboration with the NASAA board of directors to advance NASAA's federal policy agenda. A native of Lafayette, Louisiana, Breaux has held leadership positions at the local, state and national levels. She most recently was assistant secretary of the Office of Cultural Development at the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT). She is a former secretary of CRT and was executive director of the Louisiana Division of the Arts. During her time at CRT, Breaux led Louisiana's cultural economy initiative and spearheaded the

state's attainment of UNESCO recognition of Poverty Point as a World Heritage site. Before working in state government, Breaux managed southwest Louisiana's Decentralized Arts Funding Program and was executive director of the Arts and Humanities Council of Southwest Louisiana. She has served on the boards of NASAA, South Arts, the Louisiana Board of International Commerce and the U.S. Travel Association. Breaux is a member of UNESCO's U.S. National Commission. She graduated from McNeese State University with a B.A. in English, and has an M.A. in English and folklore from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.



Isaac Brown
Legislative Counsel
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Isaac Brown works with the NASAA board and membership to advance state arts agencies' federal policy interests on Capitol Hill and with the National Endowment for the Arts. He monitors federal legislation affecting state arts agencies, facilitates NASAA's work with Congress and engages NASAA members in federal advocacy efforts. Brown is a partner at the public-policy consulting firm 38 North Solutions. Before joining the firm, he worked in the U.S. House of Representatives in a personal office and as committee staff. On Capitol Hill, Brown served as legislative director and floor assistant to Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL). In

this role, he advised the congresswoman on a range of issues including appropriations, education, energy, the environment and transportation. As her leadership aide, Brown was instrumental in authorizing several significant pieces of legislation in the 111th Congress, including passage in the House of Representatives of the American Clean Energy and Security Act and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Prior to his work with Representative Schakowsky, Brown served on the Democratic staff of the House Oversight

and Government Reform Committee under the leadership of Henry Waxman. He has researched and written legislation and has provided strategic guidance and support to businesses and nonprofit organizations seeking federal funding through appropriations and grant requests.



April Hadley
Cofounder and Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Instructor
Grand Rapids Center for Mindfulness

April Hadley received her master of social work degree from Grand Valley State University in 2001. After practicing in the nonprofit sector for several years, she discovered the practice of mindfulness meditation when she realized her own health and family life were being compromised by growing stress. Hadley has been teaching mindfulness and self-compassion courses throughout the Greater Grand Rapids Area since 2010. Her warm and engaging personality and love for the practice infuses her teaching with beauty and grace. She loves to use everyday examples and lots of humor! Hadley has completed extensive training at the Center for Mindfulness at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, the Center for Mindful Self-Compassion and the Hakomi Institute for mindfulness based psychotherapy. She has a private practice in mindfulness based psychotherapy.



Mollie Quinlan-Hayes
Deputy Director and Accessibility Coordinator
South Arts
Director
ArtsReady

Mollie Quinlan-Hayes joined South Arts in early 2006. South Arts is one of the nation's six regional arts organizations and is a partner of the National Endowment for the Arts. As deputy director she works with all South Arts programs, the board, member state arts agencies and other partners to make a positive difference in the arts throughout the South. She oversees South Arts's portfolio of activities and helps to guide strategic planning and evaluation. She is director of South Arts's national initiative [ArtsReady](#), providing business continuity planning and emergency preparedness for arts organizations. Quinlan-Hayes serves as cochair of the steering committee of the National Coalition for Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response. She is a 2015 inaugural class graduate of Executive Arts and Culture Strategy, a program of the University of Pennsylvania and National Arts Strategies. Quinlan-Hayes has served as a speaker/panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and numerous state arts councils. She worked for the Arizona Commission on the Arts for 14 years, was a founding board member of Alliance for Audience/ShowUp.com and of ARTability/Accessing Arizona's Arts. Quinlan-Hayes is a facilitator/consultant in strategic planning and participation building, has been a professional audio describer, and is trained in Critical Response. In Atlanta she creates glass sculpture and jewelry as Southern Flameworks. She is a member of Alternate ROOTS.



Laura Smith
Chief Advancement Officer
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Laura Smith joined the NASAA staff in 2002. As chief advancement officer, she oversees all fundraising undertaken on behalf of NASAA. She works closely with the NASAA board of directors and staff to identify opportunities for public agencies, individuals, foundations and companies to support NASAA's mission. In addition to her fundraising responsibilities, Smith is the chief staff liaison to the NASAA board; manages the Development, Governance, Nominating and Awards committees; serves as the primary contact for issues related to member dues; directs council-member relations; and advises NASAA members and partners on development and governance issues. She also represents NASAA and state arts agencies in key philanthropic forums and networks. Before joining NASAA, Smith served with the National Mentoring Partnership, the American Architectural Foundation and the Weisman Art Museum in Minneapolis, where she helped found a site-specific theatre company. She has advised the boards of several local and national nonprofit arts organizations and is currently involved with Women in Film and Video. She has served on grant award panels for state arts agencies and the National Governors Association. Smith is an avid knitter, birdwatcher and yoga enthusiast. Her arts background includes degrees in English (B.A.) and liberal studies (M.A.), training in piano and creative writing, and an abiding love of craft.



Marete Wester
Senior Director of Arts Policy
Americans for the Arts

Marete A. Wester, M.S., joined the staff of Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization advancing the arts and arts education in America, in April 2006 after more than 25 years as a nonprofit arts and arts education manager, consultant, educator and writer. As senior director of arts policy she is responsible for the development of cross-sector policy issues and related strategic alliances nationally and internationally. Among her primary current focus areas are arts and military/veterans issues, international engagement, public health, health care and the environment. During her tenure, Wester has helped develop and launch several of Americans for the Arts's signature policy forums, including the annual National Arts Policy Roundtable in partnership with the Sundance Institute. She helped initiate and now cochairs the National Initiative for Arts and Health in the Military, an effort that brings all branches of the U.S. military in collaboration with civilian agencies to advance the policy, practice and quality use of arts and creativity as tools for health for all active duty military, staff, family members, veterans and their caregivers. An experienced administrator of cross-sector collaborations and initiative development, Wester is responsible for managing major strategic alliance relationships, including stewarding formal memorandums of agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Veterans Health Administration, and collaborations with diverse national service organizations and public agencies including the American Legion Auxiliary, Corporation for National Service, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health/National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense Office of Warrior Care Policy. Wester holds a bachelor of music performance degree from Wilkes University, Pennsylvania, and a master's degree in arts administration from Drexel University in Philadelphia.



John Windmueller
WIT@Work Director
Washington Improv Theater

John Windmueller loves improv. Loves it! Being present in the moment, being fully supported and supporting others, playing and having joyful fun while making art . . . what's not to love? Windmueller has a decade of experience designing, delivering and overseeing professional training and graduate education focused on communication and collaboration, currently serving as director of the Washington Improv Theater's WIT@Work applied improv program. In addition to his education and training background, he holds a Ph.D. in conflict analysis and resolution. For the past 20 years, he has worked professionally as a facilitator and mediator, helping groups and communities have constructive conversations. Along with directing the WIT@Work program, Windmueller is a member of Washington Improv Theater's King Bee ensemble and performs in improv festivals throughout the United States.



Margaret Vanderhye
Executive Director
Virginia Commission for the Arts

Margaret Vanderhye was appointed executive director of the Virginia Commission for the Arts by Governor Terry McAuliffe in 2014. She is responsible for overseeing the grant funding for arts organizations throughout the commonwealth. She served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 2008-2010 representing the 34th district. Until her election, she served for five years as an appointee of former governors Mark Warner and Tim Kaine. Vanderhye has extensive experience in state and national government. She served for six years as a presidential appointee to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) during the Clinton administration. The NCPC approves the site, design, signage and building improvements for projects and commemorative works in the national capital area. Vanderhye chaired the commission's Joint Memorials and Museums Task Force, which developed a nationally award-winning master plan for monuments, memorials and museums. From 1992-1996, she served as an appointee of Governor L. Douglas Wilder to the Commission on Population Growth and Development. In the mid-1990s she served on the northern Virginia Advisory Panel for the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Vanderhye has served on a variety of boards and commissions for local, state, and national organizations. She is an Advisory Council member for Our Military Kids, Inc., an organization that supports the school-aged children of National Guard and Reserve personnel deployed in the war on terrorism. Until her current appointment she served as vice chair and co-development chair of the McLean Project for the Arts. She has advocated at the local, state and/or federal levels on behalf of these groups. Vanderhye is a 2006 graduate of the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership; she currently serves on its state board. Vanderhye was raised in Chicago and Park Ridge, Illinois. Growing up she took art classes at the Art Institute of Chicago. She has a B.A. in political science from Northwestern University and an M.A. in economics and international relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.



Vicki Vitiello
Director of Operations & Arts Learning
North Carolina Arts Council

Vicki Vitiello joined the staff of the North Carolina Arts Council in 1996. In her current role she leads the Arts Council's Arts Learning Team, which includes the Arts in Education program, the A+ Schools Program, cARTwheels educational touring, Poetry Out Loud, and accessibility and hospital arts programs. Vitiello also oversees the Administrative Services Team, which includes the grants office and agency finances.