

2015 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

OCTOBER  
7-9, 2015

HOSTED BY  
THE UTAH DIVISION OF  
ARTS & MUSEUMS

## Speaker Bios

[Thursday Peer Sessions](#)

[Friday Morning Sessions](#)

[Friday Afternoon Sessions](#)

### Thursday Peer Sessions

#### *Chairs & Council Members*



**Laurel Cannon Alder**  
**Grants Manager, Community Development Specialist**  
**Utah Division of Arts & Museums**

Laurel Cannon Alder is a passionate advocate for the arts. She grew up in a college town in northern Utah, where she participated in folk-needle arts, theater, dance and many other activities. Alder decided early on that the arts must be part of her daily life, so she pursued degrees to support that passion. Her undergraduate degree is in liberal arts & sciences from Utah State University. She then went on to receive the prestigious Jane Addams Fellowship at the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy, and obtained her M.A. in arts administration from IU-Bloomington. Alder returned to Utah to start a career with the Utah Arts Council, where she helped direct efforts aimed at bolstering rural cultural arts development, improving the fundraising outlook for organizations, consulting with arts leaders, assisting in strategic planning efforts, focusing on key initiatives, writing, teaching and organizing rosters of performing artists. She founded Utah's Philanthropy Day, an annual tradition that continues to this day. After a detour into the public/private world of fundraising for public television, public education, and grass-roots and capital campaigns, Alder returned to the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, where she now divides her time between managing the grants program, teaching the Change Leader program and providing support to arts agencies throughout Utah. In her spare time, you can find her hiking or biking in the mountains or spending time with her family.



**Donna Law**  
**Executive Director, Michael O. Leavitt Center for Politics and Public Service**  
**Southern Utah University**

Donna Law was recently appointed executive director of the Michael O. Leavitt Center for Politics and Public Service at Southern Utah University (SUU) in Cedar City. For the past three years, she has served as SUU's director of government relations in addition to her

role as director of development, where she aided in raising \$38.5 million for the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Center for the Arts currently under construction on the SUU campus. Having directed the marketing and communication efforts of the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespeare Festival for a decade, Law led development efforts for the Idaho Shakespeare Festival and served as managing director of the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre before returning to Cedar City in 2009. In addition to her work at SUU, she is involved with a number of boards and committees. In 2011, Governor Gary Herbert appointed Law to the board of the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, where she participates in funding and policy decisions serving Utah's museum constituency. She also serves on Cedar City's Recreation, Arts & Parks board and the Southern Utah Museum of Art advisory board. Law has served as board member and vice-president of the Shakespeare Theatre Association.

### ***Executive Directors***



**Jason Bowcutt**  
**Community Arts Manager**  
**Utah Division of Arts & Museums**

Jason Bowcutt joined the staff of the Utah Division of Arts & Museums in 2006 on contract to resurrect and reinvent an annual statewide arts conference. Within a year he was a full-time staff member, holding the position of community and performing arts coordinator; he now serves as the community arts manager. Before joining the Division, Bowcutt held the role of cofounding executive director of a nonprofit community building organization in New York called the Innovative Theatre Foundation. The purpose of this organization is to build identity within and shine a spotlight on the artistry coming out of the off-off-Broadway (OOB)/independent theatre community. One of the tools the foundation uses to celebrate this community is the management of the preeminent theatre award for OOB called the IT Awards. In September 2015, the IT Awards celebrated its 11th annual ceremony. Bowcutt is a graduate of the University of Utah's Actors Training Program and spent many years working as a professional actor, director and producer in New York and at theatres across the country such as The Guthrie Theatre, McCarter Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre and many more.



**Wendi Hassan**  
**Executive Director**  
**The Cache Valley Center of the Arts**

Wendi Hassan is executive director of The Cache Valley Center for the Arts, the designated local arts agency for Cache County, management entity for three historic Logan City–owned arts facilities, and an arts incubator, nurturing arts entrepreneurs and serving as a fiscal sponsor for arts start-ups. Hassan was a participant in the first cohort of the Change Leader Program, which convened in 2003; when she joined the staff at the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, she was privileged to cofacilitate Utah's program with Jason Bowcutt from 2011 to 2015. Hassan has worked in arts administration, grant writing, fundraising, arts education and outreach for more than 20 years; has taught theatre leadership and management at Utah State University; and holds master's degrees in arts administration and policy from The Ohio State University and in business administration from Utah State University.

## **Deputy Directors**



**Anna Boulton**  
**Consultant**

Anna Boulton developed and implemented the Change Leader Program in Utah as program manager of the Community Partnerships Program at the Utah Arts Council/Division of Arts & Museums. In 11 years, the program has grown to include more than 200 certified Change Leaders in Utah and Idaho. She was recently honored with a state achievement award at the Utah Rural Summit for her service in rural community development. Boulton has authored several handbooks for nonprofits including *The Art of Board Development* (2002) and *The Art of Volunteer Development* (2000); she coauthored a chapter in *The Handbook for Working with Difficult Groups*, (2010). Boulton received a bachelor of integrated studies degree in communication, literature and psychology from Weber State University.



**Dr. Rick Sline**  
**Organizational Communication Consultant**  
**Rick Sline Associates**

Dr. Rick Sline spent the first 20 years of his career as an administrator at the University of Delaware, the University of Michigan and Weber State University, where he was dean of student life. After earning a Ph.D. in organizational and small-group communication, he returned to Weber State, where he taught for 19 years, retiring in 2011 as a professor emeritus. Dr. Sline's research interests were in the areas of teamwork and team and organizational commitment. He has authored book chapters and professional papers on group facilitation innovations, the effects of emotionality on work team collaboration, and factors influencing member commitment to their work team and organization. As an organizational consultant, Dr. Sline has designed and implemented organization needs assessments, team building interventions, and training programs for private corporations and public agencies for more than 20 years. His former clients include private corporations, health care institutions, nonprofit organizations and government agencies, including the Utah Arts Council, the Idaho Commission on the Arts and Colorado Creative Industries.

## Friday Morning Sessions



**Leigh Marz**  
**Marz Consulting**

Before launching Marz Consulting in 2003, Leigh Marz was an executive director of a national nonprofit. For more than a dozen years, she worked under the broad umbrella of violence prevention. She found that organizations that had admirable missions sometimes had workplace cultures that were barely hospitable to human beings. As an executive director, she set about not only fulfilling her organization's mission, she cultivated a different sort of workplace culture: Collaborative. Creative. Caring.

Today, Marz works with coalitions, organizations and leaders who want to evolve the way they work. She has proudly served organizations such as NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, The Energy Foundation, California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), The Nature Conservancy, Family Justice Center Collaborative and Green Science Policy Institute. She is a faculty member with CRR Global, where she trains and certifies coach/consultants in organizational and systems theory.



**Laura Smith, CFRE**  
**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 theater 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.



**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.

## Friday Afternoon Sessions



**Chrissy Deal**  
**Program Associate**  
**Western States Arts Federation**

Chrissy Deal is a program associate at Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF), whose mission is to strengthen the financial, organizational and policy infrastructure of the arts in the western United States. Her work at WESTAF centers around cultivating multicultural leadership in the arts through professional development, and engaging state arts agencies and cultural policy leaders in efforts that promote diversity, inclusion and equity. An alumna of the Circle of Latina Leadership with nearly 20 years of nonprofit and philanthropic experience, Deal is a trustee with The Denver Foundation. She holds a B.A. in art history from Northwestern University and a masters of nonprofit management from Regis University.



**David J. Fraher**  
**President & CEO**  
**Arts Midwest**

For the past 38 years, David J. Fraher has directed his creative skill toward building and leading arts organizations and programs throughout the United States. In addition to working with the Western States Arts Federation, where he was instrumental in researching and designing the Western States Book Awards program, Fraher enjoyed six years with the Wyoming Arts Council, where he held numerous positions, including executive director. In 1983 he joined what was then the Affiliated State Arts Agencies of the Upper Midwest as its executive director, and subsequently led its merger with Great Lakes Arts Alliance, creating Arts Midwest in 1985. He has been president and CEO of the organization since that time.

In addition to his work at Arts Midwest, Fraher currently serves on the board of the Alliance of Artists Communities. In 2007 he received the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Gary Young Award for contributions to public support for the arts, and in 2008 he received the National Endowment for the Arts Chairman's Medal for distinguished service to that agency. In 2012, he was given the Sally Ordway Irvine Award for efforts promoting arts access, and was selected as a fellow to the Salzburg Global Seminar. In 2014, he became only the second American to be awarded the Cultural Exchange Contribution Award by the People's Republic of China. Fraher has a degree in creative writing from SUNY at Brockport, New York, and completed two years of graduate work in creative writing and American literature at Ohio University in Athens.



**Allison Channing Jones**  
**Senior Strategist**  
**LaPlaca Cohen**

Having worked for institutions from the Yale Center for British Art to SITE Santa Fe to the Studio Museum in Harlem, Allison Channing Jones brings critical insight into the unique goals and challenges of the cultural sector from various vantage points. As a senior strategist in LaPlaca Cohen's Strategy & Branding Department, Jones has worked closely with a diverse array of cultural and creative organizations to help them articulate their identity and purpose, understand and respond to their competitive environment, and build deeper connections with the audiences they serve. Client projects Jones has led include: The American Institute of Architects, Hammer Museum of Art at UCLA, Royal Ontario Museum, Santa Fe Opera, SITE Santa Fe, Yale Center for British Art and Yale University. Jones has worked extensively with her colleagues to produce Culture Track, the largest tracking study focused exclusively on the ever-changing attitudes and behaviors of U.S. cultural consumers. She received a master's degree in art business from the Sotheby's Institute of Art and a B.A. in art history from Yale University.