



Speaker and Facilitator Biographies

- [Friday Morning Briefings](#)
- [Friday Morning Workshops](#)
- [Friday Afternoon Dialogues](#)

Friday Morning Briefings



**Robert Booker, Executive Director
Arizona Commission on the Arts**

Bob Booker joined the [Arizona Commission on the Arts](#) in 2006. That year, he was awarded NASAA's prestigious Gary Young award for national service to the field. He was appointed cochair of the Arts and Culture Committee of the Arizona Mexico Commission by Governor Janet Napolitano in 2006, and serves on the Arizona Centennial Commission and Foundation. Booker has served as president of the board of NASAA and as a member of the Minnesota Governor's Quarter Dollar Commission, and is the former chair of the Minnesota Governor's Residence Committee. He has served on the boards of Arts Midwest, Minnesota Museum Educators Association, Arts Over AIDS and the Minnesota AIDS Project. He is an art collector and painter.



**Dee Davis, Founder and President
Center for Rural Strategies**

Dee Davis is the founder and president of the [Center for Rural Strategies](#) and publisher of the [Daily Yonder website](#). He has helped design and lead national public information campaigns on topics as diverse as commercial television programming and federal banking policy. Davis began his media career in 1973 as a trainee at [Appalshop](#), an arts and cultural center in Whitesburg, Kentucky, devoted to exploring Appalachian life and social issues. While he was executive producer, Appalshop created more than 50 public television documentaries, established a media training program for Appalachian youth, and launched initiatives that use media as a strategic tool in organization and development. Davis is chair of the National Rural Assembly steering committee and is a member of the Rural Advisory Committee of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation. He serves on the board of directors of Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Fund for Innovative Television and Feral Arts of Brisbane, Australia. Davis is a member of the Institute for Rural Journalism's national advisory board as well as the advisory board of the Rural Policy Research Institute.



**Brad Erickson, Executive Director
Theatre Bay Area**

Brad Erickson serves as executive director of [Theatre Bay Area](#), one of the nation's largest regional performing arts service organizations, with 350 theatre and dance company members and nearly 3,000 individual members. For nearly 10 years, he has led the organization's efforts to support, promote and advocate for the region's vibrant theatre and dance community. Under Erickson's leadership, Theatre Bay Area has gained a national reputation for innovative programs and services for the field. Theatre Bay Area's nationwide study on the intrinsic impact of the theatre experience on the audience is a recent example. Erickson also serves as president of the California Arts Advocates and Californians for the Arts, as California state captain for Americans for the Arts (AFTA), and chair of AFTA's State Arts Action Network. Also a playwright, his play *Woody & Me* received a National Endowment for the Arts grant for its 2001 world premiere at the Phoenix Theatre in Indianapolis and won best new play from the Festival of Emerging American Theatre. His play *The War at Home* premiered at New Conservatory Theatre (NCTC) in 2006 and won Best New Script from the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle. His new play *American Dream, el sueño del otro lado*, premiered at NCTC in August 2013.



**Eric Giles, Learning Services Manager
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Eric Giles joined [NASAA](#) in 2008. As learning services manager, he helps to manage a diverse portfolio of learning services for NASAA members. His responsibilities include coordinating NASAA's virtual learning programs, such as web seminars, as well as assisting with the design and delivery of conference sessions and other in-person learning opportunities for state arts agencies. In addition to his work at NASAA, Giles teaches basic drawing and composition as an adjunct faculty member at the College of Southern Maryland.



**Lynn Martin Graton, Acting Director
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts**

Lynn Martin Graton has been serving as acting director of the [New Hampshire State Council on the Arts](#) since 2009. She joined the State Arts Council staff in 1998 as the traditional arts coordinator and has more than 31 years of experience in arts administration. She has served as a consultant for various heritage based museums and organizations and on a number of National Endowment for the Arts and neighboring state arts council grant review panels. While at the State Arts Council, Graton has worn many hats, including overseeing the Collections Management team, serving for several years as the agency's database administrator, and taking numerous photographs used for agency publications and websites. As traditional arts coordinator, she served as New Hampshire curator for the state's presentation at the 1999 Smithsonian Folklife Festival and for the in-state re-creation in 2000 at the Hopkinton Fairgrounds. Graton has managed grants, produced two CDs of original recordings of New Hampshire traditional music and produced

the award-winning [New Hampshire Folklife website](#). In 2012, she produced Shaping Our Heritage, a multifaceted project to celebrate 16 years of funding Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grants.



**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 fund-raising 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.



**Marete Wester, Director of Arts Policy
Americans for the Arts**

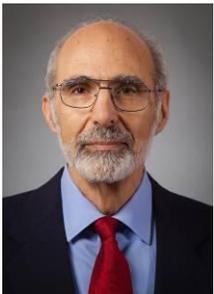
Marete Wester joined the staff of [Americans for the Arts](#) as director of arts policy in 2006. She is responsible for the development of cross-sector policy issues and strategic alliances. Among her focus areas are arts and the military, economic statecraft, health and the environment. In 2006 and 2007, respectively, she launched and implemented Americans for the Arts's signature policy forums, the National Arts Policy Roundtable (with the Sundance Institute) and the annual Aspen Seminar for Leadership in the Arts. Wester currently cochairs the National Initiative for Arts and Health in the Military, a collaborative effort co-led by Americans for the Arts and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. She has developed on-site and on-line courses for Seton Hall University (New Jersey) and the Arts Extension Service at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Wester is the author of numerous publications and the former executive director of Dance New Jersey and the Alliance for Arts Education/New Jersey. She holds a bachelor's of music performance degree from Wilkes University, Pennsylvania, and a master's degree in Arts Administration from Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Friday Morning Workshops



Alex Aldrich, Executive Director Vermont Arts Council

Alex Aldrich brings more than 25 years' experience in the arts to his position as executive director of the [Vermont Arts Council](#). Before moving to Vermont, Aldrich spent five years in Atlanta, Georgia—first as music programs producer for the 1996 Atlanta Centennial Olympic Games' Cultural Olympiad, then as the first-ever "Cultural Paralympiad" director for the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games, and finally as the business manager of Georgia State University's Rialto Center for the Performing Arts. Between college and graduate school, Aldrich held a variety of positions in music performance and management. A graduate of Harvard College and Yale School of Management, he previously has served as executive director of the Arlington [Virginia] Symphony Association, assistant director of the National Endowment for the Arts Music Program and program director with the National Institute for Music Theater in Washington, D.C. Aldrich currently serves on the board of the Vermont Council on Rural Development, the board of the New England Foundation for the Arts, the New England Creative Economy Council, and the board of the Associated Harvard Alumni. He is on the advisory board of the National Museum of Women in the Arts (Vermont chapter) and the Museum of Glass and Ceramics in Portland, Maine.



Jonathan Katz, Chief Executive Officer National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Jonathan Katz is one of the primary spokespersons in the United States on behalf of the public value of the arts and cultural activities. For more than 20 years, he has guided the [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#), the association through which the nation's 56 state arts agencies share knowledge and strategic thinking, develop leadership and professionalism, and advocate the value of the arts and culture. This year, state arts agencies and their regional consortia will manage \$350+ million in state, federal and other funds. Katz speaks and consults extensively on strategic planning, cultural policy development, advocacy, leadership development and financial planning for nonprofits. He is a cofounder of the [Arts Education Partnership](#), established by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Arts as the nation's forum for the advancement of arts education. A former member of the U.S. Commission on UNESCO, Katz has advised the [International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies](#) on its strategic planning, and has facilitated its CEO Seminar at world summits in England, Singapore, South Africa and Australia. Katz was awarded tenure as a full professor of public policy and administration at the University of Illinois at Springfield, where he directed the graduate arts administration program. He has directed The Children's Museum of Denver, well known as a pioneering nonprofit in earned revenue enterprise, and the Kansas Arts Commission, one of the first state arts agencies to develop a network of local arts agencies. His [monthly column](#) is the item most read by state arts agency leaders.



**Nicholas Paleologos, Executive Director
New Jersey State Council on the Arts**

Nicholas Paleologos has a distinguished career in both the public and private sectors. He served 14 years in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, where his primary focus was education and the arts, and 4 years as the executive director of the Massachusetts Film Office. He is a two-time Tony Award-winning producer with extensive experience in theater and film. Paleologos is a cum laude graduate of Tufts University, holds a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University and received an honorary doctorate from the Boston Conservatory in 2007. He was named executive director of the [New Jersey State Council on the Arts](#) in 2011 after an extensive national search.



**Abi Ridgway, Consultant
FSG**

Abi Ridgway is a consultant in [FSG's](#) San Francisco office. She focuses on applying the Collective Impact model to complex health challenges, with a particular focus on health. She is currently facilitating the development of a community collaborative to address childhood asthma and childhood obesity in Dallas, Texas. Prior to joining FSG, Ridgway worked in a variety of consultative and analytical roles improving health care delivery. She has worked as a consultant for McKinsey & Company, as a health policy analyst at Harvard's School of Public Health, and as a quality and operations improvement associate at Kaiser Permanente. Ridgway holds a master's degree in business administration and a master's degree in public health from UC Berkeley. She earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Dartmouth and completed a Fulbright Scholarship in Mexico City. Ridgway is from Jackson, Wyoming.



**Ryan Stubbs, Research Director
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Ryan Stubbs oversees [NASAA's](#) data collection and research services and serves as the point person for information requests from members and the public. He most recently served as director of research for the Western States Arts Federation, where he managed the Creative Vitality Index, implemented in nine states and 16 localities across the country, and coordinated the State Arts Education Assessment, a survey of arts education prevalence in K-12 schools in four states. Stubbs previously worked for the Colorado Department of Higher Education, planning capital construction for state colleges, and administered the Colorado Enterprise Zone Program for Adams County. He holds a B.A. in economics and master's degrees in public administration and urban and regional planning.



**Allison Tratner, Director of Communications
New Jersey State Council on the Arts**

Allison Tratner has been the director of communications for the [New Jersey State Council on the Arts](#) since 2008, a role responsible for supporting the Council's interests in planning, marketing and strategic communications with varied authorizers. Tratner spent three years as the Council's cultural information officer, a post created as part of the agencywide effort to gather, integrate and disseminate information on arts participation and the value of the arts. Prior to joining the Council, Tratner worked in the nonprofit sector as an educator and a research and evaluation consultant with prominent firms and museums in New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia. She earned her M.A. in museum education at the University of the Arts and holds degrees in arts education and fine arts from Alfred University.

Friday Afternoon Dialogues



**Kelly J. Barsdate, Chief Program and Planning Officer
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Kelly J. Barsdate joined [NASAA](#) in 1991 as a research analyst, assessing the distribution and impact of public-sector arts grant-making across the United States. She now oversees NASAA's research, education and communications services as well as the association's strategic planning, evaluation and performance measurement functions. Barsdate directs the learning design for NASAA's conferences and web seminars and develops the curriculum for NASAA's "boot camps," special training programs for new state arts agency executives. She has served as a consultant to numerous government, foundation and corporate grant makers, who have engaged her to conduct strategic plans, program evaluations, data analyses and policy audits. 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 to the *Journal of Arts Management, Law and Society*.



**Henry Clapp, Research Associate
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Henry Clapp joined [NASAA](#) in 2011. As a member of NASAA's research team, he gathers information for and about state arts agencies. His primary responsibilities include conducting member surveys and answering information requests regarding state arts agency budgets, staffing and compensation, and other areas of member interest. Prior to joining NASAA, Clapp worked at La Grua Center and the Salt Marsh Opera

Company in Stonington, Connecticut. He has a B.A. in music and economics from Swarthmore College. Clapp has been singing actively since elementary school, with performances taking him throughout the United States and abroad.



**Camellia El-Antably, Deputy Manager and Arts Specialist
Wyoming Arts Council**

Camellia El-Antably's duties at the [Wyoming Arts Council](#) are many and varied, including organization, design and logistics for Arts Council special events such as the Governor's Arts Awards, CLICK! Conference and Wyoming Arts Conference. As visual arts specialist, she promotes the visual arts in Wyoming and manages the fellowship process and the Biennial Fellowship Exhibition. She works with Art in Public Buildings, serves as an administrator for the on-line grants system and manages the fiscal activities of the Council. Previously, El-Antably served as arts education specialist for 12 years, working closely with arts teachers and arts organizations providing technical assistance, overseeing the arts education grant program and promoting lifelong arts learning opportunities. For three years, she served as the fine arts specialist for the Wyoming Department of Education, and oversaw the most recent standards revision process, culminating in 2012. In 2009, she cofounded Clay Paper Scissors Gallery & Studio in Cheyenne, a space that shows contemporary art and rents studios to artists. Prior to coming to Wyoming, El-Antably served two years in the Peace Corps doing economic development for women in Jordan. She has an M.A. in book arts from Camberwell College of Arts in London and a B.A. from Mills College in Oakland, California. She is a visual artist and writer.



David Miller, Arts Strategy Consultant

David Miller is an arts management specialist. From 2009-2013, as executive director of [Grounds For Sculpture](#), he led the institutional turnaround of this 42-acre contemporary sculpture park. Immediately prior, he helped the Nonprofit Finance Fund establish a New Jersey chapter following his tenure as executive vice president of the Foundation for New Jersey Public Broadcasting. For 23 years, Miller served the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, 6 as executive director. Hallmarks of his tenure include the Cultural Centers Bond Issue Program, Arts Plan NJ, the New Jersey Cultural Trust, Discover Jersey Arts Marketing Campaign, and the state's original Arts Education Census Project and acclaimed public art and arts education programs. For seven years, he directed the Burlington County Cultural and Heritage Commission, supervising restoration and public interpretation of landmark historic properties, promoting local history and launching the county's local arts development program. Miller has taught high school social studies. He holds a B.A. in English literature from the University of Pennsylvania, with graduate studies in American history, education and public administration. He has served often on National Endowment for the Arts, foundation and state arts agency panels and the boards of NASAA, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation and the Mid-Atlantic Council of the Nonprofit Finance Fund, and has received numerous awards for service excellence.



**Joy Pennington, Executive Director
Arkansas Arts Council**

Joy Pennington joined the [Arkansas Arts Council](#) as executive director in 2000. Before joining the Arts Council she was a budget analyst for the Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research and the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration. Pennington received a bachelor of arts in political science from Ouachita Baptist University and a master of public administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She has served on the boards of NASAA and the Mid-America Arts Alliance. Pennington has been a volunteer for various arts organizations and events throughout her life, and is a past board member of the Arkansas Repertory Theatre's Friends of the Rep. She works in clay and, with her husband, Larry, owns Claytime pottery studio in North Little Rock.