



**State Arts Agency Arts Education Managers
2018 Professional Development Institute**

Speaker & Artist Bios



Danny Belanger
Director of Arts Education and Accessibility
Louisiana Division of the Arts

Danny Belanger has been working in the arts and non-profits in Louisiana for over 18 years. He has served in several capacities for the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Office of Cultural Development. Prior to joining the Louisiana Division of the Arts as Deputy Director in 2007, Danny was the Director of Development for LSU College of Art & Design. During his nine-year tenure, he raised over \$12 million dollars for the College and University. Danny serves on the Hospice of Baton Rouge Board of Directors and as United Way Community Investment Manager. He is a native of Morgan City, LA and received his Master's Degree in Public Administration from Louisiana State University.



Michele Blu
Yoga Instructor
A Revolutionary Summer

Michele Blu, E-RYT 200, teaches power Vinyasa yoga (preferable hot) with emphasis on connecting breath to body and finding ease in movement. She has been practicing since 2000 and teaching since 2009. Michele was influenced by many great teachers in Baltimore, Maryland and around the world, including Baron Baptiste and Sean Heather-Brian to name a few. She was also a co-owner of Utkatasana Power Yoga Studio from 2009-2014. Michele studied and trained throughout her travels around the world. She holds many certificates but none of that has taught her more than every single person she was blessed enough to teach and encountered through this journey.



Jamesha Caldwell
Participant
A Revolutionary Summer

Baltimore-bred poet and storyteller Jamesha Caldwell strives to highlight the plight of her environment, Black womanhood, science, and all things hip-hop. Caldwell's advocacy is focused on changing the academic system to allocate educational and recreational resources for inner-city and criminalized youth.

Caldwell is currently a double major in behavioral neuroscience and criminology at Notre Dame of Maryland University. She plans to use her degrees and activist passion to reform mental health and other issues within inner city juvenile criminal systems. Her writing has been published in The Guardian, Kenyon Review, Baltimore City Paper, and Affinity Magazine. She has performed at numerous spoken-word events including CityLit Festival, Baltimore Book Festival, and Writers Resist: Voices United.



Andria Nacina Cole
Executive Director
A Revolutionary Summer

Andria Nacina Cole was raised in Buffalo, New York. She attended Morgan State and Johns Hopkins Universities, where she earned degrees in creative writing and fiction, respectively. Her short stories have appeared in The Feminist Wire, Baltimore City Paper, and Ploughshares, among others. She has received multiple grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, including the organization's top prize for fiction. She is the 2010 recipient of the Cohen Award, a Rubys Award grantee and Baltimore's Best Storyteller (2017). She co-founded A Revolutionary Summer in 2015 in response to the murder of Freddie Carlos Gray.



Shondra Cowling, LCSW-C
Social Worker
Center for Child and Family Traumatic Stress, Kennedy Krieger Institute

Shondra Cowling is a 1991 graduate of Morgan State University, where she received a BA in Telecommunications. She completed a post-graduate program at The University of Maryland Baltimore in 1997 and holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work. In the spring of 2017, Shondra completed a certificate program in Early Childhood Mental Health, through the University of Maryland's Child Psychiatry Department. She has worked a number of years doing trauma work with young children, early childhood mental health consulting, school based counseling and training.



Sara Davis, LCSW-C
Social Worker
Center for Child and Family Traumatic Stress, Kennedy Krieger Institute

Sara Davis, LCSW-C, is a clinical social worker at the Center for Child and Family Traumatic Stress at Kennedy Krieger Institute. She received her bachelor's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies in 2001 from Bryn Mawr College and her master's degree in Social Work in 2009 from the University of Maryland. As a clinical social worker at the Traumatic Stress Center, she provides direct clinical care for children, adolescents and families who have experienced trauma through physical abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation, neglect, domestic and community violence. In addition to direct clinical work, she provides staff supervision as well as MSW supervision as a field instructor for the University of Maryland. At the Traumatic Stress Center, Davis coordinates the implementation of Strengthening Family Coping Resources, an evidence-informed multifamily group model, and co-directs the Cultural Awareness Committee. She holds a special interest in incorporating the expressive arts into treatment and in collaboration with artists and other clinicians has developed curriculum for an Arts Based Psychotherapy Group aimed at helping children develop adaptive coping

skills. Additionally, Davis has partnered with the Monument Quilt and New Lens to develop trauma-informed groups for children and adults in partnership with these powerful and healing community art organizations.



Stefanie DeLuca, Ph.D., Keynote Dialogue
James Coleman Professor of Social Policy and Sociology
Johns Hopkins University

Stefanie DeLuca is the James Coleman Professor of Social Policy and Sociology at the Johns Hopkins University. She earned her Ph.D. in Human Development and Social Policy at Northwestern University, and bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Sociology at the University of Chicago. Her research uses sociological perspectives to inform education and housing policy. She has conducted mixed-methods studies that incorporate qualitative research into experimental or quasi-experimental designs. Some of her work focuses on the long-term effects of programs to help public housing residents relocate to safer neighborhoods and better schools through housing vouchers. Stefanie has just published a book about the children of MTO, as they transition to adulthood in Baltimore, *Coming of Age in the Other America* (with Susan Clampet-Lundquist and Kathryn Edin), which was named an Outstanding Academic Title from the American Library Association recently won the ASA William F. Goode Award from the American Sociological Association. Stefanie was also awarded a William T. Grant Foundation Scholars Award to study residential mobility, neighborhoods and family life among very poor families in the South. Her work has also been funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Science Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the Abell Foundation, the National Academy of Education, the American Educational Research Association and the Department of Education. In March 2006, Stefanie testified in federal court on behalf of the plaintiffs in the Baltimore Thompson v. HUD housing desegregation case, using her research on housing programs as the basis for her testimony. She contributes regularly to national and local media, including the Baltimore Sun, Washington Post, Education Week, The Atlantic, The New Yorker, The New York Times, Governing and National Public Radio. Stefanie's work has been published in academic journals such as *Social Forces*, *Sociology of Education*, *Journal of Public Policy Analysis and Management*, *Annual Review of Sociology*, *City and Community*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Teachers College Record*, *Social Science Research*, *Housing Policy Debate*, *American Educational Research Journal* and *Demography* and she has presented her work as part of an exhibit at the National Museum of American History. She previously served on a MacArthur Foundation research network on the effects of housing on young children, is a fellow at The Century Foundation, and is a member of the policy advisory board at The Reinvestment Fund. She was recently named Scholar of the Year by the National Alliance of Resident Services in Assisted and Affordable Housing.



Diana Green
Arts in Education Program Manager
Alabama State Council on the Arts

Diana F. Green received her MFA from the University of California, Irvine. She taught in a private studio and directed a youth ballet company in Maryland for 15 years. She came to Alabama to run the dance program at Huntingdon College in 1992. There she founded the first P-12 certification program in dance in the state of Alabama. In 2004 she moved to the Alabama State Council on the Arts as arts in education program manager. Aside from administrating the AIE grants program, she designs and teaches integrated arts curriculum for K-12 and consults for school systems, administrators,

teachers, and artists to strategically plan, implement, collaborate, and evaluate arts programs in Alabama schools. While working at the Council she became involved in advocacy for arts education and in partnership with the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education, helped coordinate three statewide arts education Summits. Ms. Green is now facilitating the Artistic Literacy Consortium, a collective impact initiative in partnership with the State Department of Education. The consortium is a large group of stakeholders sharing the mission and a plan "to provide fully funded, high-quality arts education that enlightens, inspires, and develops in every Alabama student the creative and innovative thinking necessary to ensure college and career readiness."



Nora Howell
Program Director
Jubilee Arts

Nora Howell is a performance based sculpture artists and art administrator, she has led Jubilee Arts as a program director since 2013. She is a co-founder and co-producer of the Art@Work. She received her MFA in Community Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art and a BA in studio art from Wheaton College. She is Daily Record 2018 VIP awardee and a Hamiltonian Fellowship Alumni.



Ayanna Hudson, Keynote Dialogue
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. The NEA's arts education program provides direct learning grants for projects that provide pre-K through 12th-grade students with opportunities to gain knowledge and skills in the arts both in and outside the classroom; professional development grants for projects that deepen knowledge and strengthen practice of educators and civic leaders; and collective impact grants for projects that use a systematic approach to provide arts education to students throughout a community, school, school district, and state. 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. 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.



Cathy Jensen
Fine Arts Content Specialist
Utah State Office of Education

Cathy Jensen has served as an educational specialist at the Utah State Office of Education since July of 2010. She facilitates fine arts endorsements and core standards for Utah's public schools. She coordinates the Professional Outreach Program in the Schools (POPS) which is a partnership with ten professional performing and visual arts organizations in the state. Utah Symphony/Utah Opera and Ballet West are two of the organizations in this program which provides learning experiences for school children with professional arts groups. She is also the program specialist for the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program, a legislatively funded, integrated arts program in the elementary schools. Cathy spent thirty-two years in public schools as a secondary school principal and as a music teacher in elementary and middle level schools. She is most passionate about arts integrated learning opportunities for children and has recently reignited her own learning by starting harp lessons.



David Markey
Arts Education Coordinator
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

David Markey currently manages arts education grants and programs for the DC's Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH). A core focus of CAH is on building the capacities of organizations that serve youth in the District. David has spent 25 years working in arts education as a teaching artist, director, and arts administrator. Prior to his tenure at CAH, he spent 13 years as Director of Education at Imagination Stage in Maryland. David has worked as an adjunct professor with the School of Education, Teaching, and Health at American University, the School of Education at the University of Tampa, the Theatre Department at the University of New Hampshire, and the Centre for Baroque and Renaissance Studies at the University of Maryland. He was also chair of the Youth Theatre Network of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education from 2006-2012. Most recently, David authored a chapter on teaching artistry in the compendium, [Arts Integration in Education](#) (Intellect Books, 2016).



Anysa Saleh
Arts Education Specialist
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

Anysa Saleh joined the Arts Education Department at the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities in October 2017. She is the coordinator for Poetry Out Loud and supports the Arts Education Coordinator with many Arts Education programming. Anysa has a BA in Psychology and Studio Art and an MFA in Media Arts. Her experience lies heavily with early childhood arts education. She was an arts educator for five years in the San Francisco Bay Area public schools system and an after-school programs administrator for a nonprofit in Oakland, California. Anysa has a background in Media Arts. Her short films have been screened through various film festivals in California, Turkey, London, and Poland.



Ernest Shaw
Art@Work Artist
Jubilee Arts

Artist Ernest Shaw, Jr. was born and has lived most of his life in Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Shaw comes from a family of visual and performing artists. As a youngster growing up in West Baltimore, there was never an absence of influence, or inspiration. Mr. Shaw appreciates the support and encouragement of his parents, especially recognizing the fact that it is not easy to raise a child artist. Mr. Shaw's work defines the duality of the African American experience. His artwork exhibits this dichotomy through an array of media and concepts. The most prevalent aspect of the artist's work is his use and understanding of color and the figure. The figure in his work is a continuation of a rich history of African and African American figurative art. His use of color demonstrates a deep level of understanding of rhythm taught to him by several West African drum instructors. He is a graduate of the Baltimore School for the Arts. He obtained a B.A. in art from Morgan State University, and an M.F.A. from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Mr. Shaw is now a teacher in Baltimore City, and an adjunct professor at Maryland Institute College of Art.

Urban Choral Arts Society

Founded and directed by Ronald S. McFadden, the Urban Choral Arts Society is a nonprofit dedicated to improving the achievement and esteem of Baltimore youth through choral and cultural arts. UCAS, in partnership with the Eubie Blake Cultural Center, allows students to participate in mentoring, regular rehearsals, and performances with adult professional musicians. With a special emphasis on music within the African diaspora, UCAS also seeks to preserve and highlight the artistic contributions of African Americans to the world of music. UCAS hosts a weekly two-and-a-half hour Saturday music program for students in 6 through 12 grade, with weekly one-on-one private voice instruction, and five major performances per season. UCAS provides students with an arts education which enables some to engage in quality arts instruction that is not adequately provided in area schools, and enhances the skills of students that desire more. Our goal is to develop a strong college and career pipeline through the arts, and to strengthen and sustain artistic networks and patronage. Our educational vision for students is that they become performance and exhibition proficient, working both individually and collaboratively, in order to successfully produce high quality musical experiences. As students commit and progress through our program, we grant scholarship awards to those graduating seniors to pursue music at the college/university level.

2018 Arts Education Working Group



**Chiquita Mullins-Lee, Chair & Midwestern Region Representative
Arts Learning Program Coordinator
Ohio Arts Council**

Chiquita Mullins Lee is the Ohio Arts Council's (OAC) Arts Learning coordinator. She oversees the Arts Partnership and Artist in Residence, Artist Express, and Big Yellow School Bus programs that support quality arts experiences with an educational focus. She previously coordinated Ohio's Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest and was a teaching artist for OAC's Artist-in-Residence program. She cultivated OAC's Artful Aging initiative, contributed to the selection process for Ohio's first poet laureate, and served on grant review panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, Arkansas Arts Council, and Kentucky Arts Council. Chiquita won individual artist/excellence awards from the Greater Columbus Arts Council and OAC, and was an OAC summer writer-in-residence at the Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, Massachusetts. Raised in Atlanta, Chiquita earned her B.A. from Vassar College and masters' degrees from Ohio University and Ohio State. A member of New Covenant Believers Church, Chiquita supports the worship arts ministry. She hosted Traditions - Ohio Heritage Fellows produced by Dayton's Think-TV, which won a 2015 Emmy for Best Human Interest Program. She performed onstage in Twelve Hours by Dave Carley and Lost Lake by David Auburn, and she writes and performs with Columbus-based Wild Women Writing. Her critically-acclaimed play, *Pierce to the Soul*, premiered at Contemporary American Theatre Company, Columbus' professional equity theater and toured central Ohio with A Portable Theatre Company.



**Josy Miller, Cochair & Western Region Representative
Arts Program Specialist
California Arts Council**

Josy Miller is the Arts Education Programs Specialist for the California Arts Council. At the CAC, Miller manages six grant programs including JUMP StArts, the agency's program that supports arts residencies for system-engaged youth. She also sits on the Arts Education Working Group for the National Association of State Arts Agencies. A theatre director and scholar, she received her Ph.D. in Performance Studies from the University of California, Davis. Miller is a recipient of the Center for Cultural Innovation's Emerging Arts Leader Award, the Mellon Foundation Teaching/Research Fellowship in Early Modern Studies and the University of California Institute for Research in the Arts's Major Grant Award (for her production of *The Dogs of War* at the 2014 Edinburgh Fringe Festival). Her article "Performing Collective Trauma: 9/11 and the Reconstruction of American Identity" appears in the collection *History, Memory, Performance*, published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2015. She is co-editor, with Peter Lichtenfels, of *Shakespeare and Realism: On the Politics of Style*, forthcoming from Fairleigh Dickinson University Press.



**Jennifer Allen-Barron, Mid-America Region Representative
Arts Education Director
Oklahoma Arts Council**

Jennifer Allen-Barron earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and a Bachelor of Arts in French from the University of Oklahoma. Prior to joining the Oklahoma Arts Council, Allen-Barron served as Executive Director of the Paseo Arts Association and as Community Arts Program Director at the Arts Council of Oklahoma City. She is also a practicing

visual artist, working primarily in acrylic paint. Allen-Barron works with arts education programs in public schools and arts learning programs across the state, as well as overseeing the Council's Teaching Artist Roster and the Oklahoma Arts and the Military Initiative.

Danny Belanger, Southern Region Representative
Director of Arts Education and Accessibility
Louisiana Division of the Arts



Laura Forbes, Western Region Representative
Arts Education Program Director
Alaska State Council on the Arts

Laura Forbes has been the Arts Education Program Director at the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) since fall of 2011. Laura's duties at ASCA include administering grants, the development of networks, facilitation of Alaska Poetry Out loud, supporting the field of presenting and touring performing arts and visual art exhibition, and technical services for artists, educators, arts organizations and all Alaska's citizens. Laura graduated from the University of Alaska, Anchorage with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. After graduating from UAA, she worked throughout Alaska and in Chicago, Illinois as a teaching artist, director, designer, and administrator for community arts organizations, with a focus and special interest in Theatre for Young Audiences/Youth Theatre. While living in Chicago, Laura worked with such organizations as Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Vittum Theatre (now Adventure Stage Chicago), and a variety of Chicago's storefront theaters. Returning to Alaska in 2007, Laura became the Director of Programs and Exhibits at the Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center, working to preserve and promote the arts, culture and history of Kenai and Alaska. In 2012, she earned an M.Ed. in Integrated Teaching through the Arts from Lesley University.



Julianne Gadoury, New England Region Representative
Arts in Education Coordinator
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts

Julianne Gadoury is an artist, designer of social change, and an endurance athlete. She enjoys forging opportunities for human creativity to thrive. Serving as the Arts Education Coordinator for the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, Julianne is a key partner in the collective impact organization, the NH Arts Learning Network and oversees grants for in and out of school learning. She has the pleasure of organizing professional development for educators and teaching artists, Youth Arts Month, and Poetry Out Loud. Julianne was the former Traditional Arts Coordinator building relationships with immigrant and refugee communities and helping to preserve and promote NH's cultural heritage. She has been an adjunct lecturer in art history, printmaking and drawing. Julianne earned her MBA, MFA in Printmaking, CAGS in Cultural Studies, and dual BA in Art History and in Studio Art. She actively explores our world through the arts, running, and hiking with her amazing friends, her partner, and two kids.

Cathy Jensen, SEADAE Representative
Fine Arts Content Specialist
Utah State Office of Education



**Casey Polczynski
Arts in Education Coordinator
Virginia Commission for the Arts**

Casey Polczynski joined the Virginia Commission for the Arts as the Arts in Education Coordinator in July 2014 where she coordinates grant funding for educational projects and Poetry Out Loud for the Commonwealth. She earned her Doctorate in Education from Walden University in 2013. Her doctoral thesis examined the teacher efficacy and pupil control beliefs of elementary art educators across Virginia exploring the teaching context and its possible impact on efficacy beliefs. Casey has been a visual arts educator teaching preK-12 students both nationally and internationally for over 15 years. Before coming to the commission, she worked at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in various educational roles expanding her knowledge and skills in museum education and community outreach. She makes the time weekly to take voice lessons to learn Gregorian chant and occasionally can be found repairing religious statuary.



**Amber Sharples, Executive Director Representative
Executive Director
Oklahoma Arts Council**

Amber Sharples has served as executive director of the Oklahoma Arts Council since 2013. As the agency's CEO, Sharples is responsible for the development and administration of the policies, programs and procedures of the state agency for the arts. Sharples' career at the Council began in 2006, when she joined the agency as visual arts director and collections manager for the Capitol artwork. She has managed other areas of the agency such as her role as assistant director, where she spearheaded the agency's strategic planning process, managed staff evaluations, and developed agency policies and procedures. Prior to working for the Council, she served as the Communications and Public Affairs Coordinator at the U.S.-Mexico Foundation for Culture in Mexico City. She has served on numerous boards both in Oklahoma and nationally, including Mid-America Arts Alliance in Kansas City, and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies in Washington, D.C. Sharples holds a Master of Arts in Art History from the University of Oklahoma and a graduate certificate in museum collections management and care from The George Washington University.



**Christine Stewart, PDI 2018 SAA Host Representative
Program Director, Arts in Education, Literary Arts, Children's
Events, Arts Service, and Poetry Out Loud
Maryland State Arts Council**

Christine Stewart is Program Director for Arts in Education, Literary Arts, Children's Events, and Arts Service with the Maryland State Arts Council and Director of Maryland's Poetry Out Loud program. A former artist-in-residence with Creative Alliance in Baltimore, she has an M.A. and M.F.A. in creative writing and poetry, is the recipient of a Ruth Lilly Fellowship, a Pushcart Prize nominee, and has been published in Poetry, Ploughshares, Blackbird, Five Points, The Cortland Review, and other literary magazines. She has taught at Carver Center for Arts & Technology, Odyssey Program at Johns Hopkins, and the Baltimore Museum of Art. Her work with non-profits such as My Sister's Circle (Baltimore), CityLit Project (Baltimore), Venice Arts (Venice, California), and WriteGirl (Hollywood, California) focused on mentoring and leading workshops for children and teens ranging from 6-18 years, in which writing was mixed with photography, painting, collage, music, and movement.



Nancy Daugherty
Arts Education Specialist
National Endowment for the Arts

Nancy Daugherty has been an Arts Education Specialist for the National Endowment for the Arts since June 2000. Through the agency's arts education program she has worked with applicants in all arts fields and disciplines, and is currently focused in the disciplines of dance, literature, theater and musical theater. She also advises the Arts Education Working Group, which designs professional development for state arts agency arts education managers, serves on the Advisory Committee of the Arts Education Partnership, and the intergovernmental team that manages the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. From 2004 through 2007 she managed the agency's Summer Schools in the Arts program, a national initiative designed to assess student learning and offer potential models of rigorous, standards-based arts education. Prior to her federal service she was the Arts Education Coordinator for the WV Commission on the Arts where she also served as the Coordinator for the Governor's Task Force on Arts in Basic Education. For the Center for Economic Options she developed training and marketing opportunities for sector-specific micro enterprise networks, such as the Appalachian Flower Network. She has served as a facilitator, presenter, consultant, panelist, and conference planner for many state and national arts organizations. She is a graduate of West Virginia University with a degree in Sociology & Anthropology.



Susan Oetgen
Professional Development Institute Manager
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Susan Oetgen is the Professional Development Institute (PDI) Manager for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. In addition to managing the PDI, her consulting portfolio currently includes co-designing and managing NASAA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Mentorship pilot program; designing and managing the Young Audiences National Residency Teaching Artist Credential project; and coordinating the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artist Retreat. Prior to joining the NASAA staff, Susan served as an arts manager, educator and facilitator with a variety of performing arts organizations, including The Field, Stamford Symphony Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra and Tribeca Performing Arts Center. She also has served as a teaching artist/coach with the Everyday Arts for Special Education (EASE) program, coaching New York City special education teachers and paraprofessionals on EASE's unique arts-integration curriculum for children with autism and emotional disturbance. Born and raised in the Washington, D.C., area, Susan holds a B.A. in theology from Georgetown University, an M.M. in classical vocal performance from the Catholic University of America, and a certificate in conflict analysis and resolution from George Mason University.