

## 2020 Virtual Professional Development Institute

### Keynote Presenter



**Bettina Love, Ph.D.**  
**Georgia Athletic Association Endowed Professor in Education**  
**University of Georgia**

Dr. Bettina L. Love is an award-winning author and the Athletic Association Endowed Professor at the University of Georgia. She is one of the field's most esteemed educational researchers. Her writing, research, teaching, and activism meet at the intersection of race, education, abolition, and Black joy. Dr. Love is concerned with how educators working with parents and communities can build communal, civically engaged schools rooted in Abolitionist Teaching with the goal of intersectional social justice for equitable classrooms that love and affirm Black and Brown children. In 2020, Dr. Love co-founded the Abolitionist Teaching Network (ATN).

ATN's mission is simple: develop and support teachers and parents to fight injustice within their schools and communities. In 2020, Dr. Love was also named a member of the Old 4th Ward Economic Security Task Force with the Atlanta City Council.

Dr. Love is a sought-after public speaker on a range of topics, including: Abolitionist Teaching, anti-racism, Hip Hop education, Black girlhood, queer youth, Hip Hop feminism, art-based education to foster youth civic engagement, and issues of diversity and inclusion. She is the creator of the Hip Hop civics curriculum GET FREE.

In 2014, she was invited to the White House Research Conference on Girls to discuss her work focused on the lives of Black girls. For her work in the field of Hip Hop education, in 2016, Dr. Love was named the Nasir Jones Hiphop Fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University. In April of 2017, Dr. Love participated in a one-on-one public lecture with bell hooks focused on the liberatory education practices of Black and Brown children. In 2018, Georgia's House of Representatives presented Dr. Love with a resolution for her impact on the field of education. She has also provided commentary for various news outlets including NPR, *Ed Week*, *The Guardian*, and the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*.

She is the author of the books *We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom* and *Hip Hop's Li'l Sistas Speak: Negotiating Hip Hop Identities and Politics in the New South*. Her work has appeared in numerous books and journals, including the *English Journal*, *Urban Education*, *The Urban Review*, and the *Journal of LGBT Youth*.

## Presenters & Panelists

(In alphabetical order)



**Giovana Aviles**  
**Operations and Programs Manager**  
**CALA Alliance**

Giovana Aviles is a Mexican-born artist and arts educator based in Arizona. Her personal work is a fusion of fashion and art as she seeks to tell stories of empowerment and community. Her work has been displayed in galleries around Phoenix and her current work revolves around gender and identity. Her art educational background extends from small group lessons to formerly being part of Public Programs at Phoenix Art Museum. She currently holds a position with CALA Alliance, a multidisciplinary Latinx arts organization based in Phoenix that collaborates with artists and arts organizations to connect Arizona, Mexico and Latin America. Giovana is involved in her community and continues to work with art and non-profit organizations around Arizona including serving as a board member for Trans Queer Pueblo, a racial & gender justice organization based in Phoenix.



**Precious Blake**  
**Arts in Education Program Director & Accessibility**  
**Coordinator**  
**Maryland State Arts Council**

Precious Blake is a visual journalist and arts administrator. Precious received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration with a concentration in Printmaking at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA.) Precious makes pathways for equitable access to the arts, truth-telling, and community resilience by working with arts education leaders, curating joyously brave conversations, and creating collaborations that combine her passion for journalism, illustrative archivation, and highlighting historically marginalized voices. As the Arts in Education Program Director for the Maryland State Arts Council, Precious leads the visioning and implementation of the Arts in Education program that includes the Arts in Education Grant, the Teaching Artist Roster, Maryland's Poetry Out Loud state competition, and numerous arts education projects across the state and Mid-Atlantic region. As the Accessibility Coordinator, Precious oversees integrating Accessibility in the Arts across MSAC's numerous programs and events.



**Sheri Brady**  
**Director for Strategic Partnerships**  
**Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions**

Sheri Brady, Director for Strategic Partnerships at Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions, which promotes collaborative, community-based efforts that build the power and influence of those with the least access to opportunity. She leads work on field building around collective impact, place-based investment, community engagement and equity. Her strong commitment to

social and economic justice is reflected in her work. She was previously Director of Policy at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, where she provided foundation-wide leadership on policy and advocacy grantmaking. She serves on the following boards: Diverse City Fund, a grantmaking organization that supports local social justice projects; Paul J. Aicher Foundation/Everyday Democracy, which helps communities work equitably and inclusively to build a strong democracy; and the Women's Equity Center and Action Network, with a mission of providing women of color with tools and resources to facilitate their engagement in policymaking. She graduated from Wheaton College in Norton, MA and the UC Berkeley Law School.



**Pam Breaux**  
**President & CEO**  
**National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Pam joined the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) in 2015. As president and CEO, she works with the association's board of directors and staff to advance NASAA's policy and programmatic mission to strengthen America's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. A native of Lafayette, Louisiana, Pam has held leadership positions at the local, state and national levels. While in Louisiana state government, she was secretary of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT), assistant secretary of CRT (overseeing its cultural development portfolio), and executive director of its state arts agency (the Louisiana Division of the Arts).

During her time at CRT, Pam developed and led Louisiana's cultural economy initiative and spearheaded the successful UNESCO inscription of Poverty Point State Historic Site (an ancient Indian site) as a World Heritage site. Before working in state government, Pam was executive director of the Arts and Humanities Council of Southwest Louisiana and managed southwest Louisiana's Decentralized Arts Funding Program. She has served on the boards of the U.S. Travel Association, NASAA, South Arts and the Louisiana Board of International Commerce. Pam is currently a member of the U.S. National Commission on UNESCO. She graduated from McNeese State University with a B.A. in English and earned an M.A. in English and folklore from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.



**William Cepeda**  
**Jazz Artist, Innovator, Composer, Trombonist, Conch Shells,**  
**Educator, Producer**

Known as a cultural icon of Puerto Rico and a four-time Grammy nominee and composer, William Cepeda was born and raised in Loiza, the heart of Puerto Rico's "Little Africa." His artistic excellence, authenticity, and advocacy for research and comprehensive documentation of Puerto Rican music, dance and culture have earned him multiple awards, grants, and recognition. In 1992, he revolutionized Latin music with the introduction of Afro-Rican Jazz, an innovative blend of traditional Puerto Rican roots, folk, dance, progressive jazz, and world music. He is widely credited with innovating and creating the jazz sub-genre: Afro-Rican Jazz. Cepeda's musical influences include Dizzy Gillespie, Miriam Makeba, Miles Davis, Fela Kuti, and Lester Bowie among others. His ensemble has toured the world and performed at such prestigious jazz festivals as Montreux, North Sea, and Tabarka and performing arts venues and clubs. A protégé of

the Dizzy Gillespie, Cepeda was a member of the United Nations Orchestra. Also, he has traveled the world and performed with many jazz artists, such as Lester Bowie and his Brass Fantasy, David Murray, James Moody, Steve Turre, Bobby Watson, Miriam Makeba, and Slide Hampton & the Jazz Masters. Also, he is equally known in the Latin music scene and has performed with such legendary figures as Tito Puente, Paquito D'Rivera, Arturo Sandoval, Eddie Palmieri, Celia Cruz, Marc Anthony, Ruben Blades, Oscar de Leon, and Ruben Blades. In addition to his jazz and world music repertoire, Cepeda's oeuvre includes Bomba Sinfonica, a full-length orchestral work for a symphony, opera, choir, and soloists. In 2013, Cepeda was bestowed an Honorary Doctorate from the Berklee College of Music. The same year the Puerto Rico Heineken Jazz Festival was dedicated in his honor. Cepeda continues to compose, develop new projects and seek new opportunities.



**Victoria Christgau**  
**Executive Director**  
**Connecticut Center for Nonviolence**

Victoria Christgau is a lifelong peace/arts and nonviolence educator. Founder / Executive Director of the CT Center for Nonviolence (CTCN). Founder of the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration of Litchfield County, CT. A Teaching Artist for the CT Office of the Arts for twenty-five years. Former, Artistic Director for the World Peace Prayer Society's, International World Peace Festival. In 2007, at the request of legendary, Civil Rights leader, Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr. Christgau founded CTCN. She currently is Advisor/Faculty for the Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Institutes, for the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). She has presented nonviolence workshops and trainings at schools, colleges, State and Municipal Police Departments, and hundreds of venues throughout CT and the nation. Awards: Hartford Courant's Tapestry Award, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra's Community Partnership Award, the CT State Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission's Community Service Award.



**Ernest Disney-Britton**  
**Vice President, Community Impact, Investment & Equity**  
**Arts Council of Indianapolis**

Ernest Disney-Britton, Vice President, Community Impact, Investment & Equity, is responsible for the strategic implementation of grants & fellowships, arts education partnerships, and community impact research for the Arts Council of Indianapolis. As vice president, he takes the lead in stakeholder engagement to ensure equitable access to the arts for the residents in the 25 city council districts in the City of Indianapolis, including K-8 students at Indianapolis Public Schools. Key to this work is preparing community impact reports, including the Equity Report and the District Impact Report. The Equity Report summarizes diversity data (racial, gender, and disability) on audiences, artists, and local arts organizations' staff. The District Impact Report measures the numerical impact of outreach and community engagement throughout the city in schools, churches, and community-based organizations. Additionally, Ernest Disney-Britton is the board chair for Edison School of the Arts, the K-8 arts magnet for Indianapolis Public Schools. With over 30 years of art administrative experience, Ernest previously served at the Cincinnati Arts Consortium, Eastern Michigan University, Northern Kentucky University, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, and the Astraea

Lesbian Foundation for Justice's Freedom to Mary Project, before coming to the Arts Council of Indianapolis.



**Randy Farmer, M.Ed.  
Educational Director  
Pathfinder Education Program, Lincoln Public Schools**

Randall Farmer has worked with youth at-risk for 30 years. He has worked in a variety of settings; an adolescent secure mental health facility, an alternative middle school, a residential school and public schools. The last 18 years have been at the Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center, teaching 4 years, then as the administrator for the last fourteen years. Randall has served on the Executive Board of the National Partnership for Juvenile Services (*NPJS.org*) for 15 years. He regularly and currently serves as the Chair of the NPJS Education Committee. He has for 10 years worked with the Nebraska Department of Education on committees for improving educational services for youth in out-of-home placements across the state. Randall is a regular speaker to various groups and organizations, both within the state, and nationally, about the need for quality educational services for youth at-risk. He has provided consulting services to numerous juvenile justice based education programs across the country. Randall and his wife Dr. Sarah Staples-Farmer also provide professional development training for Lincoln Public Schools on system involved youth. Randall is continually learning, and engaging others in the pursuit of the best practices for educating system involved youth, and believes strongly in the motto: "The kids always come first." - R. Krause



**Elisa García-Radcliffe  
Arts Learning Manager  
Arizona Commission on the Arts**

Elisa García-Radcliffe (they/them) is an arts administrator, educator and movement artist who lives in Phoenix, Arizona. Elisa has over twelve years of experience working as a dance educator in the Phoenix Union High School District. Through their involvement in public education, they've witnessed firsthand how important access to quality creative and cultural activities are for students. They have a strong belief that dance and art can and should be grounded in the community it serves. Elisa is currently the Arts Learning Manager at the Arizona Commission on the Arts, overseeing the Arts Commission's comprehensive slate of Arts Learning grantmaking, programs, partnerships, and strategic initiatives. They serve as a board member for RE:FRAME Youth Arts Center, a place for and by young folx to artistically resist the decentering of their power, rights, and identities. Elisa is currently a performer in Liz Lerman's *Wicked Bodies*.



**Adelisa González-Lugo, M.B.A.,  
Executive Director and Principal Educator  
Fundación Cortés**

Adelisa González-Lugo is the Executive Director and Lead Educator of Fundación Cortés since 2012. She utilizes Caribbean artworks from the Cortés Family's private collection as the main cultural and educational tools of positive social transformation. To date, Fundación Cortés has presented nine exhibits (only private art museum free of charge in Old San Juan), received over 75,000 visitors from around the world, and has served more than 13,000 children, youth and adults in the main program of the organization: Educa Cortés. The

Program consists of hands-on, customized educational workshops with integration of Caribbean artworks and artists, dialogue, reflection and creative expression, with the integration of social values promoted for the wellness and vibrancy of our communities: Culture, Identity, Self-sufficiency, Social Justice and Dignity. The workshops complement academic learning standards and expectations under any school subject, and other themes as requested. Furthermore, the Program has a wellness and mental health curriculum that was born in 2017 during the Educa Cortés Post María Temporary School that operated for five weeks after the devastation of Hurricane María. More than 3,000 participants have benefited from this program, which has served to address the ongoing crises Puerto Rico has faced since, including more hurricanes and storms, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 global pandemic. Ms. González has nearly 30 years of experience as an educator both in Massachusetts and Puerto Rico, holds an MBA with a concentration in Public & Nonprofit Management from Boston University, and completed the Adaptive Leadership Certificate Program from Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Ms. González has vast experience designing and facilitation leadership and team building workshops and earned her BS in Business Administration from State University of New York-Oswego. From 2007 to 2012 Adelisa González held the position of Senior Director of Development at Sapiientis, a non-profit organization with the mission of mobilizing and advocating to improve the quality of Puerto Rico's public education system (K-12). Prior to returning to Puerto Rico in 2007, Adelisa held positions in Boston, Massachusetts including: Senior Vice President of Charitable Giving at Mellon New England, Program Director at Citizen Schools, Finance Director at Boston University School of Public Health, and Office Administrator at Boston University Medical Center's Department of Publications, Media and Community Relations.



**Juan Gudiño  
Director, Flamboyán Arts Fund  
Flamboyán Foundation**

Juan Gudiño is the Director of the Flamboyán Arts Fund, a partnership between the Flamboyán Foundation, Lin-Manuel Miranda, and the Hamilton musical to preserve, amplify, and sustain the arts in Puerto Rico. He's a facilitator and enabler of arts & culture projects with a specialization in grant writing, management, and compliance. An

enthusiast for collaboration and passionate about creating and nurturing alliances to design and implement initiatives that are innovative and meaningful, he's also a musician and folkloric dance and percussion instructor in his hometown, Puerto Rico. Currently, he's an adjunct professor of tourism in the Business Administration Faculty at Sacred Heart University. Juan has a bachelor's degree in Biology and Political Science from the University of Puerto Rico. He's currently working on his masters in Cultural Management and Agency at

the same institution. Among his research interests are cultural policies and management, ethnomusicology, music therapy, and decolonial thinking.



**Ayanna Hudson**  
**Director, Arts Education**  
**National Endowment for the Arts**

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



**Jennie Knoebel**  
**Arts Learning Manager and Accessibility Coordinator**  
**Iowa Arts Council**

Jennie Knoebel has been the Arts Learning Manager and Accessibility Coordinator for the Iowa Arts Council since 2016. She oversees arts learning and operational support grants. Jennie is a member of the Iowa Arts Education Leadership Team, and helped organize the inaugural Iowa Fine Arts Education Summit. Prior to working for the Iowa Arts Council, Jennie was the Executive Director of the Austin Area Commission for the Arts in Austin, MN. During her tenure she managed a historic presenting theatre, launched a citywide annual arts festival, and built a new visual arts center. Jennie also spent several years as the Communications Coordinator for the University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts and Dance. Jennie earned a Master's of Liberal Studies degree with a focus in Arts Administration from the University of Minnesota and a B.A. in both Theatre Arts and Communication Studies from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse.



**Tamar Krames**  
**Program Manager, Arts in Education**  
**Washington State Arts Commission**

As ArtsWA's Arts in Education (AIE) Program Manager, Tamar oversees a variety of programs and partnerships with a focus on equitable access to quality arts learning. As an arts administrator, a national board certified teacher, and a multimedia artist, supporting innovative, community-based practices in schools has been at the core of her work for the past twenty years. Current projects include co-directing the Washington State Teaching Artist Training Lab, developing a new statewide arts and early learning program, providing ongoing support for teaching artists and pre K-12 art teachers, and amplifying the creative practices of youth and educators.



**Christine Leahy**  
**Program Director, Arts in Education**  
**New York State Council on the Arts**

Christine Leahy is a Program Director at the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), in charge of the Arts Education and Facilities Programs. Initiatives started under her tenure include the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Orchestras and Classical Music (DinO) collaboration with the Music program, the New York State Creative Aging Pilot and the NYS Youth Media Symposium. In previous positions at NYSCA she served in the agency's Literature, Visual Arts, Museum, Architecture + Design and Folk Arts programs. Christine formerly worked for the artist Jenny Holzer and in the Education department at the Williams College Museum of Art, and has written for The New York Times and National Public Radio. She is a graduate of Williams College.



**Marta Moreno Vega, Ph.D.**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Creative Justice Initiative**

Marta Moreno Vega, Ph.D., is the founder and former president and CEO of the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute (CCCADI) established in 1976 with a mission to create an international organization promoting and linking communities of African descendants wherever they are present. Dr. Moreno Vega has been a committed advocate and educational implementer of cultural multidisciplinary education that was the foundation of her work as the second director of El Museo del Barrio. Moreno Vega, took the project of El Museo as a state founded project from a classroom project to an internationally recognized as a Puerto Rican museum. During her tenure as director the collaboration she negotiated between The Metropolitan Museum of Art and El Museo del Barrio the first comprehensive history of Puerto Rican Art in the United States and Puerto Rico coordinating the exhibition from the collection of 11 international organizations. Moreno Vega, is also co-founder of the Global Afro Latino and Caribbean Initiative (GALCI), a program of Hunter College/Latin American and Caribbean studies. Dr. Moreno Vega has also taught as an adjunct professor at Hunter College in the Religion Department. The author of *The Altar of My Soul* (One World/Ballantine, 2001), she is director and co-producer of the documentary *When the*

*Spirits Dance Mambo: Growing Up Nuyorican in El Barrio* and has written a personal memoir by the same name (Three Rivers Press, 2002). Dr. Moreno Vega's teaching career in higher education includes Adjunct Professor at Art and Public Policy Department, New York University, Hunter College, Centro de Estudios de Puerto Rico y El Caribe. Dr. Vega is currently working a documentary focused on African based spirituality in Puerto Rico and a children's book. She is presently CEO of a Creative Justice Initiative, a nonprofit organization that has been founded by the Ford Foundation and New York Women's foundation to develop the national conference, Culture: Race, Myth Art = Justice.



**Drekkia Morning**  
**Arts in Education Program Manager**  
**Arkansas Arts Council**

Drekkia Morning- the poet, the artist, the creator and energy curator! Author of the book "17 Mirrors," and Arts in Education Program Manager for the state of Arkansas. Graduate of the University of Central Arkansas. An active advocate for women empowerment. Recently appointed Little Rock School District Community Advisory Board Member and candidate for the Little Rock School District School Board. Morning is an artist by nature and committed to keeping the arts alive!



**Sheikia Norris a.k.a. Purple Haze,**  
**Performer, Hip Hop Educator**

Sheikia S. Norris, lyrically known as Purple Haze was born in the birthplace of hip-hop, The Bronx. Currently residing in Newark, New Jersey, Purple's performance or classroom experience are dynamic and unforgettable! This independent international Emcee, rocks with funk & soul to naturally connect with ease, uses her voice that inspires audience movement. Enthusiasts of the art form appreciate her energy, her impeccable flow and a clever deliverance of truth. Haze has mastered her own rich style of spitting lyrics with both power and substance. She is recognized as a skilled performing artist and leader in Hip Hop Educator. Acknowledgments from participating as a "Lady's First Fund" grant recipient, NJPAC's Hip Hop Intensive Program Director, Next Level Program U.S. Cultural Diplomat, Hip Hop Culture Center in Harlem Artist, a former member of the Toni Blackman's Rhyme Like A Girl Collective (Freestyle Union) and up and coming curator for Hip Hop art and performance. Purp is a diversified talent poised for success in a host of arenas



**Carlton Turner**  
**Founder**  
**Mississippi Center for Cultural Production (SIPP Culture)**

Carlton Turner is an artist, agriculturalist, researcher and founder of the Mississippi Center for Cultural Production (Sipp Culture). Sipp Culture uses food and story to support rural community, cultural, and economic development in his hometown of Utica, Mississippi where he lives with his wife Brandi and three children. Carlton currently serves on the board of First People's Fund, Imagining America, and Project South. Carlton is a member of the We Shall Overcome Fund Advisory Committee at the Highlander Center for Research and Education and former Executive Director of Alternate ROOTS. He is also a founding partner of the Intercultural Leadership

Institute. Carlton is a current Interdisciplinary Research Fellow with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. He is also a former Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellow and a Cultural Policy Fellow at the Creative Placemaking Institute at Arizona State University's Herberger Institute for Design in the Arts. Carlton is a member of the Rural Wealth Lab at RUPRI (Rural Policy Research Institute) and an advisor to the Kresge Foundation's FreshLo Initiative. In 2018, Carlton was awarded the Sidney Yates Award for Advocacy in the Performing Arts by the Association of Performing Arts Professionals. Carlton has also received the M. Edgar Rosenblum award for outstanding contribution to Ensemble Theater (2011) and the Otto René Castillo Awards for Political Theatre (2015).



**Deborah Vaughn**  
**Arts Learning & Poetry Out Loud Program Coordinator**  
**Oregon Arts Commission**

An arts education leader with over fifteen years of experience, Deb developed a national *Poetry Out Loud* model for students who are deaf. Prior to joining the Arts Commission, she worked at Oregon Children's Theatre. Under her leadership, *Connecting Students to the World of Work* (2013-2016) grants provided arts mentorships for underserved students. She has managed Oregon's *Arts Learning* program for over ten years, and currently works on the *Operating Support*, *Individual Artist Fellowship* and *Arts Access Reimbursement* programs. A trained singer, actor, and creative drama teacher, Deb is the resident dramaturg for Theatre 33 in Salem, OR and received two Sunburst Awards for her commitment to arts education and advocacy. Deb volunteers on the Development Team for the Straub Outdoors and as a Camp Fire youth leader. Deb holds a Nonprofit Program Evaluation Certificate from Portland State University, a MFA in Theatre for Youth from Arizona State University and a BA in theatre from University of Portland.

## 2020 Arts Education Working Group



**Anne Alston, Mid-America Region Representative  
Program Specialist, Arts Education  
Nebraska Arts Council**

In her role as a Program Specialist for the Nebraska Arts Council, Anne works to ensure that all Nebraskans have opportunities for lifelong learning in the arts, including arts education in schools. She also oversees the Poetry Out Loud program for the state of Nebraska and manages special NAC initiatives to advance the arts throughout the state. She currently serves on the Nebraskans for the Arts Education Committee and Poetry from the Plains website advisory committee. In 2018 the National Council of Teachers of English and the Nebraska Language Arts Council honored her with an Intellectual Freedom Award. Prior to NAC, she was a teaching specialist at Joslyn Art Museum and headed outreach programs at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts.



**Michael Faison, Executive Director Representative  
Executive Director  
Idaho Commission on the Arts**

Michael Faison is the executive director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts. Faison previously served as the director of the Arts in Education Division of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the assistant director of the Oregon Arts Commission, and the executive director of the Center for Arts Management and Technology at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He served as an information technology consultant for Pittsburgh's Manchester Craftsmen's Guild and was a high school art teacher in the Austin Independent School District, Austin, Texas. Faison is a member of the boards of the Western States Arts Federation, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University Alumni Association, and the Boise Sunrise Rotary Club. He holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Texas at Austin, a master's degree in arts management from Carnegie Mellon University, and multiple Texas teaching certifications.



**Anastasia Freyermuth, Western Region Representative  
Arts Learning and Evaluation Coordinator  
Arizona Commission for the Arts**

Anastasia Freyermuth is Arts Learning and Evaluation Coordinator at the Arizona Commission on the Arts. At the Arizona Commission on the Arts, Anastasia helps oversee the agency's Arts Learning grant programs, coordinates the Poetry Out Loud program for the state of Arizona, and conducts agency wide evaluation work. Anastasia's commitment to helping foster arts learning experiences for communities throughout Arizona comes from their own experience growing up in rural Arizona. Growing up in an area which saw change and challenge instilled the important role art plays in a person's sense of belonging to a community. These experiences have also shown Anastasia that meaningful arts learning is integrally connected to continual personal learning, open dialogue, and authentic engagement. Anastasia is honored to work alongside their colleagues in the national field of

arts education. The collective thinking generated in this cohort helps Anastasia better understand where and how the Arizona Commission on the Arts enacts its mission of “imaging(ing) an Arizona where everyone can participate in and experience the arts.”



**Monica Grable, Western Region Representative  
Arts Education Director  
Montana Arts Council**

Monica joined the staff of the Montana Arts Council as Arts Education Director in February of 2017, following more than twenty-five years’ combined experience as a visual art educator at the secondary level and as an executive director of a nonprofit performing arts presenting organization. She has taught youth and adult learners in a wide variety of community settings, including an adjunct position teaching art methods courses for elementary educators. Monica served on NASAA’s Arts Education Working Group (AEWG) as PDI site host in 2019 and, finding the experience highly rewarding, chose to continue serving. With deep interests in bringing communities together through multidisciplinary arts experience, arts integration in the K-12 curriculum and work that ensures and expands equitable access to arts learning for all, Monica is delighted to be working with outstanding educators, artists, and community organizations to advance these initiatives in Montana and in partnership with her NASAA colleagues at the national level.



**Stephanie Haines, Midwest Region Representative  
Arts Education & Accessibility Manager  
Indiana Arts Commission**

Stephanie Haines is the Arts Education & Accessibility Manager at the Indiana Arts Commission. Stephanie oversees the IAC’s arts education program PACE (Partnering Arts, Communities, and Education) as well as Poetry Out Loud, Indiana State Poet Laureate program, and Regional Operating and Project grant program; she is also the agency’s Accessibility Coordinator. Stephanie earned a Master of Arts in Arts Administration degree from Indiana University, and her Bachelor of Science degree in Visual Art Education from the University of Indianapolis. She has more than ten years of experience working with teaching artists and arts integration programming with specialties in professional development and artist lesson planning. Stephanie is a visual artist primarily in the mediums of painting and drawing.



**Porché Hardy, Mid-Atlantic Region Representative  
Program Officer, Arts Education & Performing Arts Presenters  
New Jersey State Council on the Arts**

Porché is an arts education specialist, arts administrator, singer, actress, and teacher that has spent over fifteen years combining her love of performing on stage with her passion for arts advocacy, equity in the arts, financial wellness, and public policy to serve New Jersey’s youth and arts community through non-profit management and philanthropy. She currently leads the arts education initiatives for the NJ State Arts Council. Porché is an alumna of Rutgers University where she studied sociology and economics, as well as classical music at Mason Gross School of the Arts. She’s also an alumna of the William Esper Studio, The Council of Urban Professionals, the Victoria

Emerging Leadership Program, and Leadership Newark. She serves as an advisor for the NJ Arts & Culture Administrators of Color Network, membership committee of the Council of NJ Grantmakers, and steering committee for NASAA's Arts Education Working Group. An active member of her community, Porché served as the President of the Urban League of Essex County Young Professionals.



**Sharon Hill, Southern Region Representative  
Arts in Education Director  
North Carolina Arts Council**

Sharon Hill has served in the arts education field for over 45 years. She began her career as an art teacher and taught in seven states across the country. She later served in two public school systems in Arizona and Virginia as the Director of Arts Education and Senior Coordinator of Art Education. Her experience includes extensive teaching and administrative work in several universities and colleges, as well as serving as an arts education advisor to two major museums in Virginia and North Carolina. Her current work as Director of Arts in Education at the North Carolina Arts Council is the perfect melding of all those interests and allows her to continue to advocate for quality arts education for all students.



**Bonnie Koba, New England Region Representative  
Senior Program Manager, Arts in Education  
Department of Economic & Community Development,  
Connecticut Office of the Arts**

Working in education, creative programming, and arts learning for over 20 years, Bonnie's leadership portfolio at COA includes the development, management, or significant contribution to COA's strategic direction - READI (relevance, equity, access, diversity, and inclusion); CT's nationally recognized HOTS Schools program; Teaching Artist Directory; State Troubadour; POL, and several other project and grants programs. Bonnie works with local and national leaders in innovative program design, arts integration, and professional development and she consults nationally on these topics. A current focus is building a network to Disrupt the School to Prison Pipeline through the arts. She has served on NASAA's Arts Learning Advisory Group, NEFA's Touring Program, and on the Arts Education Work Group as well as several state and local commissions, committees and workgroups. Bonnie's work is powered by her desire to create joyful learning environments that ignite wonder, possibility, self-assurance and kind-heartedness – worthy of her grandchildren.



**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**  
**Arts Learning Projects Director**  
**National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Susan Oetgen has worked with NASAA since 2014. Her responsibilities include directing the annual Professional Development Institute on behalf of NASAA's Arts Education Working Group, facilitating mentorships for new state arts agency arts education managers and maintaining the arts education managers' peer-to-peer network. During her tenure, Susan has supported the creation of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Arts Subcommittee of the arts education peer group, and represented NASAA as facilitator and point person for the Arts Education Partnership's national Equity Working Group. In 2017, Susan codesigned and managed NASAA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Mentorship pilot program. Susan's arts learning portfolio includes coordinating the biannual Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artist Retreat and directing NASAA's Leveraging State Investments in Creative Aging program, a partnership with Aroha Philanthropies. For more than 15 years, Susan has served as an arts manager, facilitator and teaching artist with a variety of arts and education organizations, including Everyday Arts for Special Education, Oregon Cultural Arts Coalition, President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, SchoolTalk, Wyoming Arts Council, and Young Audiences Arts for Learning. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in theology with a specialization in the religions of the African diaspora from Georgetown University, a master of music degree in classical vocal performance with a specialization in Latin American vocal music from the Catholic University of America, and a graduate certificate in advanced skills in conflict analysis and resolution from George Mason University.



**Laura Rivera Ayala**  
**Associate Consultant**  
**ArtsAspire Consulting**

Laura holds a BA in Art History from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's degree in Visual Arts Administration from New York University. Her past work experience include working in arts education, curatorial projects and development. As an arts administrator, her goal is to bridge the gap between art and the public in ways that will constantly respond to the diversity and ever-changing realities of both art and public life.