



## Artists

Thursday, September 22  
12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

### Animating NASAA



**Johnny Villarreal**  
**Motion designer and illustrator**

Johnny Villarreal is a visual artist, animator and educator from Austin, Texas. Since 2008 he has been developing and exhibiting his custom-built stop-motion animation studio, The Edge of Imagination Station. In 2014 he was accepted to the Texas Commission on the Arts Touring Roster. This has given him the opportunity to work with students of all ages, skill levels and abilities in schools, libraries, museums, festivals and other nonprofits across the state.

Johnny also works as a freelance motion designer/illustrator and has collaborated on multiple award-winning productions. He has created music videos, worked on a children's television show, and provided motion graphic and visual effect elements for a variety of clients.

To learn more about Johnny and his projects, please visit [www.theedgeofimaginationstation.com](http://www.theedgeofimaginationstation.com) and [www.johnnyvillarreal.com](http://www.johnnyvillarreal.com)

Thursday, September 22  
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

### Artist Showcase: What Is a Chickasaw Composer?



**Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate**

Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate is a classical composer, citizen of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma and is dedicated to the development of American Indian classical composition. Tate is Guest Composer/Conductor/Pianist for San Francisco Symphony Currents program Thunder Song: American Indian Musical Cultures and was recently guest composer for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Balcony Bar program

Home with ETHEL and Friends, featuring his commissioned work Pisachi (Reveal) for String Quartet.

His commissioned works have been performed by the National Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and Chorus, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Ballet, Canterbury Voices, Dale Warland Singers, Santa Fe Desert Chorale and Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival.

Tate is a three-time commissioned recipient from the American Composers Forum, a Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Program recipient, a Cleveland Institute of Music Alumni Achievement Award recipient, a governor-appointed Creativity Ambassador for the State of Oklahoma and an Emmy Award winner for his work on the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority documentary, "The Science of Composing." In addition to his work based upon his Chickasaw culture, Tate has worked with the music and language of multiple tribes, such as Choctaw, Navajo, Cherokee, Ojibway, Creek, Pechanga, Comanche, Lakota, Hopi, Tlingit, Lenape, Tongva, Shawnee, Caddo, Ute, Aleut, Shoshone, Cree, Paiute and Salish/Kootenai.

Tate earned his bachelor of music degree in piano performance from Northwestern University, where he studied with Dr. Donald Isaak, and his master of music in piano performance and composition from The Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with Elizabeth Pastor and Dr. Donald Erb. He has performed as first keyboard on the Broadway national tours of *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon* and been a guest pianist and accompanist for the Colorado Ballet, Hartford Ballet and numerous ballet and dance companies.

Tate's middle name, Impichchaachaaha, means "his high corncrib" and is his inherited traditional Chickasaw house name. A corncrib is a small hut used for the storage of corn and other vegetables. In traditional Chickasaw culture, the corncrib was built high off the ground on stilts to keep its contents safe from foraging animals.

Thursday, September 22  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## Opening Reception



### Pablo Sanhueza

Pablo Sanhueza has been deemed "Kansas City's Heart & Soul of Latin Music" by JAM Magazine, and recognized as the region's premier salsa and Latin jazz percussionist and bandleader. Since his arrival to Kansas City from Santiago, Chile, in 1996, Pablo has dedicated the past 25 years of his distinguished career to the music of the Latin American experience as a percussionist, band leader and teaching artist who has worked with three generations of musicians and the historic 18th & Vine

jazz district.

As a performer, Sanhueza brings the charisma and precision of the maestros of the mambo and Big Band era. In 2019 Sanhueza presented his apprentice musicians and veteran collaboration project to an audience reach of nearly 40,000, and notably has hosted the longest-running salsa and Latin jazz nights in the Midwest at the Blue Room.

In 2018, Sanhueza cofounded the Kansas City Latin Jazz Orchestra (KCLJO). KCLJO is the first performance, apprentice and education nonprofit in the Midwestern United States dedicated to salsa, Latin jazz and the intersection of Latin American folkloric dance. KCLJO is an intercultural, intergenerational organization, bringing transnational experiences to the stage, the dance floor and diverse communities.

Representing Latino leadership in the arts, Sanhueza is a Missouri Arts Council touring artist, a Missouri Humanities Council Speakers Bureau member, and a collaborator with the U.S. Department of State cultural exchange initiatives in the United States and South America. In 2019, Sanhueza welcomed Pedrito Martinez to Kansas City for the historic Folly Jazz Series & Artist Talk. Sanhueza and KCLJO are endorsed by the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz for cultural and education outreach in Chile and the Midwestern United States. In 2021, Sanhueza's orchestra received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support a commission and collaboration with NEA Jazz Master, pianist, composer and band leader Maestro Eddie Palmieri. Sanhueza is a master artist for the Missouri Traditional Arts Apprentice program, and was the featured presenter at the Missouri Bicentennial Celebration in August 2021 at Jesse Auditorium in Columbia.

Friday, September 23  
6:00-7:30 p.m.

## Donor Reception



### Amado Espinoza

Amado Espinoza is a multi-instrumentalist, composer and instrument builder. His music is rooted in the spiritual traditions of the Andes mountains, while drawing inspiration from genres and musical instruments belonging to this earth's magnificent ethno-sphere. Amado is a recipient of the Folk Alliance International 2022 Spirit of Folk award, a 2019 Lighton Foundation International Artist Grant and a 2017 Charlotte St. Performing Arts Fellowship and has opened for TEDxKC. He has taught a masterclass at Berklee College of Music and is an InterUrban Art House teaching artist and freelance composer for film and theatre. In addition, he builds professional quality musical instruments that you can find on Etsy. Amado performs solo and with Ensemble Ibérica, Ayllu and the Amado Espinoza Quartet and guides sound-immersive meditations.

[www.amadoespinoza.com](http://www.amadoespinoza.com)

<https://linktr.ee/AmadoEspinozaM>

Saturday, September 24  
11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

## Closing Session: Animating NASAA



### Johnny Villarreal

Johnny presents an animated film made from member contributions.  
(See full bio above.)

## Visual Artists!

Watch the slide loops prior to each plenary session for pieces by visual artists from the Arkansas Arts Council's [Small Works on Paper](#) program and exhibition, along with specially curated works from the Nebraska Arts Council!