

Americans for the Arts Emerging Leaders Council Members



Todd Trebour

Emerging Leaders Co-Chair; Program Coordinator, UMass Amherst Arts Extension Service

Todd Trebour is the Program Coordinator for the UMass-Amherst Arts Extension Service (AES). Through his work at AES, Todd helps artists and arts students build vibrant careers and businesses through courses, trainings, and entrepreneurship programming. Todd works with arts organizations, local cultural councils, and city planners to bring training programs on business, marketing and entrepreneurship topics to artists. In addition to leading trainings, he teaches arts management and arts entrepreneurship courses on-campus and online. Todd also works with artists and arts organizations to create local internship opportunities for Five College arts students and connects students with these opportunities through cross campus-community programming.

Prior to working with AES, Todd was the marketing and development director at Chester Theatre Company (CTC), a professional summer theatre company in the mountain town of Chester, MA. Prior to CTC, Todd was treasurer of c3 Northampton and project development consultant for Art At Work Holyoke. He currently serves on the boards of CitySpace, Easthampton co.lab, as well as the Strategic Planning Committee for WAM Theatre. Todd has also worked as a professional operatic performer and concert soloist, performing with companies throughout the United States and Canada. As part of his current artistic practice, Todd is a member of Eventide Singers, a hospice choir based in Franklin County, and co-curator of the Movement Lab at Studio Firenze. Todd received his BA in Music Performance from Whitman College, his MM in Voice from Rice University, and his Core Certificate in Arts Management from the UMass-Amherst Arts Extension Service.



Elisheba Johnson

Emerging Leaders Co-Chair; Public Art Program Manager at Seattle Office of Arts & Culture

Elisheba is a multi-media artist and poet and has dedicated her career in the arts to creating space for emerging and POC artists to create and showcase their work.

Elisheba, who has a BFA from Cornish College of the Arts, was the owner of Faire Gallery Café', a multi-use art space that held art exhibitions, music shows, poetry readings and creative gatherings. Since 2013 Johnson has been at the Seattle Office of Arts of Culture where she is a project manager in the Public Art Program and works on capacity building initiatives including Public Art Boot Camp for emerging artists, and managing temporary art installation programs.



Aileen Alon

Director of Arts & Creative Industry for Opa-locka Community Development Corporation

Aileen Alon is drawn to projects promoting the arts, civic engagement, and sustainable communities. She is the Director of Arts & Creative Industry at the Opa-locka Community Development Corporation, which was selected by the National Endowment for the Arts' Exploring Our Town initiative as a case study for best practices in community development and creative placemaking. Aileen also serves on the National Creativity Network's Creative Economy Coalition, national grant panels, and several local boards and steering committees. Her

background in visual arts, dance, music and writing led to studies at the University of British Columbia's Centre for Cultural Planning and Development, Scuola Lorenzo de'Medici in Italy, and her B.A. in Art History from Winthrop University.



Hilary Amnah

Arts Education Coordinator

Hilary Amnah is the Arts Education Coordinator for the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission. Prior to working at the Arts Commission, Hilary was a Community Arts Coordinator for the Utah Division of Arts & Museums where she developed the Local Arts Agency program and served communities throughout the state. During her career, Hilary has worked in a variety of arts administration capacities, including creative placemaking, a VSA, rural arts, a gallery, folklife, and local and state arts agencies. She currently serves on the Americans for the Arts Emerging Leaders Council and the Robert E. Gard Foundation board.

Hilary holds a BA in Music from The Ohio State University and an MS in Arts Management with a Community Arts concentration from the University of Oregon.



Rebecca Burrell

The Right Brain Initiative Outreach Specialist, Regional Arts & Culture Council

Rebecca Burrell is the Outreach Specialist for The Right Brain Initiative, the arts education partnership of the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) in Portland, Oregon. The first person to hold this position, Rebecca develops communications and community engagement programming for the Initiative, speaking throughout Portland on behalf of Right Brain, managing events, volunteers, social media and local partnerships. She is particularly proud of having built a successful parent advocacy program and a partnership with AIGA Portland, the professional association for design. Rebecca is dedicated to channeling the arts to transform cities. Prior to her role at RACC, Rebecca worked as the External Relations Specialist for the Museum of Contemporary Craft and Pacific Northwest College of Art. And before settling back in Portland—her hometown—she spent 6 years living in New York, New Mexico, California, Pennsylvania and Ohio working for an installation art museum, a design firm, a public radio station, a dance company and a rural middle school. Meanwhile, she earned a BA in Communications/Print Media from Antioch College. Rebecca is a very proud co-founder of the Portland Emerging Arts Leaders, a brand-new edition to the Americans for the Arts Emerging Leaders Network. She is also a steering committee member for Rebooting Democracy, a Gen Y-focused summit of ideas and innovation in democracy, for which she is inserting the arts into the conversation. Rebecca is a contemporary dance fanatic, an excitable eater and a to-the-grave public library user.



Nicholas Dragga

Executive Director, Ballet Lubbock

Nicholas Dragga has served as the Executive Director of Ballet Lubbock since January of 2011 where he focuses on program design, development, and the branding of the organization. Under Nicholas's leadership of the past two years, Ballet Lubbock's budget has grown by over 50% with student enrollment increasing by 28% and contributed income growing by over 45%. Mr. Dragga spearheaded several collaborations with the Ballet and other prominent Lubbock arts organizations including the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts, and the Texas Tech University School of Music. Current efforts at Ballet Lubbock include implementing the recently completed five-year strategic plan that calls for expanding the staff structure and a relocation of the Ballet Lubbock facility at Lubbock's Downtown Cultural Arts District.

Prior to his work with Ballet Lubbock, Mr. Dragga served as the Marketing Director for the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra helping create the strongest ticket sales in the organization's history. Mr. Dragga holds a Bachelor's of Music in Music Performance and Composition from Texas Tech University, and is currently pursuing a Master's of Science Degree in Arts Administration from Drexel University. Nicholas's graduate research is focused on the successes—or not—of alternative ticket subscription models used by group one symphony orchestras.



Brea Heidelberg

Assistant Professor of Arts Administration, Rider University

Brea M. Heidelberg is an Assistant Professor of Arts Administration at Rider University. In each of her undergraduate courses she infuses her lesson plans with a focus on social justice and diversity. Brea also serves as the internship coordinator; making connections to artists and arts organizations to create working experiences for her students. In her teaching and research Brea pays particular attention to the professional development of arts administrators, focusing on the initial stages of early career training and socialization. Brea also works as a consultant for nonprofit arts organizations. Her recent projects have focused on volunteer management and board development. Brea earned her PhD in Arts Administration, Education & Policy from The Ohio State University, where her research focused on arts advocacy arguments at the federal level. Her other research interests include human resources issues, cultural policy at the state and federal levels, and cultural diplomacy.



Katherine Kough

Program Director, Center for Humanities in Medicine, Mayo Clinic

Katherine C. Kough, M.Admin Kit Kough is the Program Director of the Center for Humanities in Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Arizona, where she oversees programs involving disciplines across the spectrum of the Arts and Humanities to engage interconnected communities of patients, families, staff, learners, and the public – promoting the artful and compassionate delivery of healthcare. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Arizona State University and a Master's in Administration/Project Management from Northern Arizona University. Kit has been active in the local performing arts community as an actress and director, as well as other roles behind the scenes. She is also a founding board member and current Vice President of Arts InterFACE, a non-profit organization that creates international arts projects in order to inspire love and empower individuals toward positive social change in the global community.



Bryan Joseph Lee

Associate Director of Special Artistic Projects, The Public Theater

Bryan Joseph Lee is the Associate Director of Special Artistic Projects at The Public Theater, an artist-driven, radically inclusive, fundamentally democratic theater company in New York, NY. In this role, he produces audience engagement programs and local touring productions that bring theater directly to underserved communities in all five boroughs of New York City.

Previously, Bryan was Director of Marketing & Communications at Round House Theatre, a regional theater company in Bethesda, Maryland. At Round House, he oversaw earned revenue and institutional marketing, with a specific interest in cultivating diverse audiences through authentic and targeted relationship building. Bryan has guided numerous audience engagement initiatives locally, nationally, and internationally, including recent projects in Salem, Oregon and Alexandria, Egypt.

Bryan is a 2018 Fellow at the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland. He was also named a Rising Leader of Color by Theatre Communications Group (TCG) in 2016, and has served on the Board of Governors for theatreWashington, a service organization dedicated to representing the theatre community in the nation's capital. Previously, Bryan worked with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, and SOURCE Festival in Washington, D.C. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and holds a degree in Latin American Studies and Theater.



Salvador Mayoral IV

Public Art Program Assistant, Regional Arts & Culture Council

Salvador Mayoral IV is committed to championing both the arts and the culturally diverse communities that create them. He serves the Portland metropolitan area in his role as the Public Art Program Assistant at the Regional Arts & Culture Council. In this position, he co-facilitates the city's murals program, administers percent for art calls, and develops and executes professional development opportunities for artists working in diverse mediums and with different levels of experience. Furthermore, he is dedicated to ensuring both the organization and program's processes and efforts are conducted through an equity lens, which oftentimes, results in meaningful collaborations between staff, board members, and outside private and public partners.

Outside of his own creative practice as a musician and writer over the past decade, Salvador has volunteered and interned with arts and multicultural organizations from the San Francisco Bay Area to Sacramento, culminating with a Multicultural Fellowship with the California Arts Council. Currently, he serves on the Portland Latinx Pride committee, a group that organizes an annual festival focused on engaging and bringing together the queer Latinx population in Oregon and southern Washington.



Jess Peña

Executive Director, Fairbanks Arts Association

Jess Peña is passionate about creating opportunities for arts engagement, arts education, and promoting the arts as an essential facet of community health. As Executive Director at Fairbanks Arts Association (FAA)--a 50 year-old local arts organization in Alaska's Interior, and the oldest arts council in the state of Alaska--Jess has worked with the FAA's affiliate member organizations, the tourism industry, the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce and local and state government to drive this work forward – and the work continues. In

2012, Jess began work with FAA as Education Coordinator, managing arts residency & performing arts programs that serve the school district's 14,000 students. Later, as FAA's Associate Director, Jess managed all organizational programs and began more in-depth community work such as serving as Co-Chair for the Arts Committee of the 2014 Arctic Winter Games (an international celebration of circumpolar sports and culture) and traveling to the state's capitol as an arts advocate during legislative session. After advancing in leadership throughout her tenure at FAA, in January of 2016 Jess assumed leadership of the organization after successfully working with the 20-year director on the transition. As an artist, a lifelong Alaskan and parent to three wonderful sidekicks, Jess is committed to creating better communities through the arts in Alaska and is honored to have the opportunity to do so by ringing in the next chapter of Fairbanks Arts Association.



Manuel Prieto

Executive Director, Los Angeles Music and Arts School

Manuel Prieto is an artist and arts administrator who joined the Los Angeles Music and Art School (LAMusArt), a not-for-profit arts organization in East Los Angeles that promotes equitable access to arts programs for local students, during a time of significant transition for the organization and community-at-large.

LAMusArt's mission is to provide all students regardless of their race, gender, socioeconomic status and ability to engage and succeed in the arts.

Under his short but impactful leadership as Executive Director, LAMusArt has increased participation on its Board of Directors by 50%, increased opportunities for local students to enroll in tuition-free music ensemble programs by 50%, and created an advisory council of young professionals that not only fundraises on behalf of the organization, but which also provides training in board governance, finance, and event planning to all members.

Prior to joining LAMusArt, Prieto worked as an educator with Center Theatre Group and as a designer for various major networks and regional theatres. At CTG he managed patron accessibility initiatives and developed bilingual curriculum for their education department's initiative, "theatre in your everyday life". As a designer, Prieto has worked on productions for E! Network, Center Theatre Group, Pasadena Playhouse, Cornerstone Theatre, El Teatro Campesino, 24th Street Theater and the LATC.

Prieto holds a B.F.A. from the University of Southern California in Theatre Design with an emphasis on education and a M.A. in Nonprofit Management from Antioch University.



Dara Silver

Senior Administrative Assistant, Special Projects, Grant Program Manager, The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County

Dara Silver is the Senior Administrative Assistant, Special Projects, and Grant Program Manager at The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, where she has worked for the past 6 years. She assists the President & CEO and provides support for the Board of Trustees, in addition to overseeing 7 grant programs that make over 100 awards totaling \$1.8 million. Special projects she is currently working with include American for the Arts' Arts and Economic

Prosperity Study 5, City of Winston-Salem & Forsyth County's Public Art Commission, City of Winston-Salem's STAR Community Program, and Family Services' Family Violence Prevention Initiative.

In 2015, she received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Young Dreamers' Award from the City of Winston-Salem's Human Relations Commission for her efforts in making a more inclusive arts community. This work includes reaching out to historically underserved parts of the community and non-traditional partners to ensure that Arts Council grant applicants and panelists mirror those of the whole community.

Dara received her BA in Anthropology and Art History with a concentration in Museum Studies from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Duke University. She currently resides in Winston-Salem with her husband Mike Silver, Deputy Commissioner with the NC Industrial Commission, and their daughter, Miriam. Dara was born in Lima, Peru and raised in Fayetteville, NC.



Deidre Thomas

Grants Coordinator, Houston Arts Alliance

Deidre Thomas is a Houston native and is currently attending Houston Baptist University in pursuit of her MBA. Deidre joined The Houston Arts Alliance staff in 2015 and serves in the Grants Department. The Grants departments awards over \$4 million dollars annually to artists and arts organizations in the 4th largest city in the nation. As a Grants Coordinator, she serves in all aspects of the Houston Arts Alliances' grants programming and initiatives. In this role, she also applies a broad range of skills in process management and technology, and has been instrumental in creating systems and resources to support the

management and growth of the grants programs. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Houston in Sociology, minor in African American Studies and a certificate in nonprofit management through American Humanics. Her background includes work in fashion, education and marketing. She is a fashion enthusiast and lives vicariously through other creatives working in different mediums. She runs her own blog, The Esoteric Tribe, a celebration of multicultural fashion and art. She loves to travel and has been fortunate enough to visit Dubai, Singapore and Costa Rica. These experiences and fine places introduced her to new people, big ideas and global concepts that helped shape the person she is today.



Lindsay Tucker So

Research and Policy Associate, City of Philadelphia Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy

Lindsay Tucker So is the Research & Policy Associate for the City of Philadelphia Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy (OACCE). Lindsay works on policy and research initiatives and publications that support and promote arts, culture and the creative industries as essential components of Philadelphia's economic and social fabric. She also coordinates additional projects including the city's Poet Laureate Program. Lindsay came to the OACCE from CultureWorks Greater Philadelphia, where she was the Manager of Fiscal Sponsorship and helped develop Philadelphia's first Comprehensive Fiscal Sponsorship program for the cultural community. Lindsay has a strong interest in the development of sector-wide organizational effectiveness and integrating arts and culture into the city's landscape. She was a founding steering committee member of Emerging Arts Leaders: Philadelphia, and Vice President of the Drexel University Arts Administration Graduate Association (an Emerging Leaders Network Affiliate). Lindsay received a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from New York University and her Masters in Administration from Drexel University.